**PARTY POOPERS?** PG. 14
The 'No Fun League' cracks down on the end-zone celebration

**MAC ATTACK**
Cleveland's Charlie Frye is primed to be the next great QB from the Mid-American Conference

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2006 YEARBOOK

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# Celebrate good times—c'mon

For the life of me, I can't figure out why the NFL has such a hang-up about celebrations.

As you'll read on page 14 of this yearbook ("Party Poopers" by Pete Williams), the No Fun League has decided that it must again impose further restrictions on this scourge of American sports, the end-zone celebration.

To hear the NFL tell it, Joe Horn is Public Enemy No. 1. Like the much-ballyhooed WMD in Iraq, you can't find evidence that Mr. Horn's use of a cell phone after scoring a touchdown really hurt anyone.

Steve Smith might as well be one of the Sopranos. How dare he pretend to row a boat on sacred NFL ground. Doesn't he know what a poor influence that is on children?

Terrell Owens' dance routines? Why, they're more dangerous than Iran with a nuclear bomb.

Of course, this is the same league that gave us Janet Jackson's wardrobe malfunction at the Super Bowl, so what do they know about what is or isn't in poor taste?

What I do know is that if a league spends its time coming up with elaborate rules to govern touchdown celebrations, then it isn't spending enough time on the things that actually matter. Like, say, steroids, which are a problem whether the league wants to admit it or not. If you don't believe that, then take a look at the revelations that came out of the guilty plea by Dr. James Shortt in Columbia, S.C., in March. Shortt admitted to illegally distributing anabolic steroids and human growth hormone to a group that included five players from the 2003 NFC champion Carolina Panthers.

Other sports don't seem to be concerned at all with how their athletes celebrate triumphant acts.

Take soccer, for instance. The NFL doesn't hold a candle to soccer celebrations, where players run and slide on their bellies across the field after scoring and teammates bring new meaning to orchestrated demonstrations. Brandi Chastain took her shirt off after scoring the winning penalty kick at the 1999 Women's World Cup and was cheered for it.

How about tennis? Check out Andy Roddick fist-pumping and yelling after a big shot or hitting the ball into the crowd after a successful match point. Is that bad for the game?

Those sports actually seem to be encouraging celebrations, not penalizing them.

So you're telling me that Steve Smith can't jump on a goalpost and slide down? T.O. can't break out his Sharpie? Chad Johnson can't putt with a pylon? Get real.

So, let us praise Johnson, Smith and Owens, not crucify them. They're only trying to have a little fun in the No Fun League.

SCOTT SMITH
EDITOR

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ICON SMI; JOHN GRESS / ICON SMI; HOWIE MCCORMICK / ICON SMI; TONY TRIBBLE / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; FOTOSPORTS / WIRE IMAGE.COM; HECTOR MATA / AFP / GETTY IMAGES

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**JUNE 2006**

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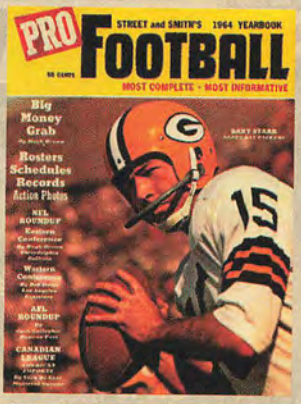

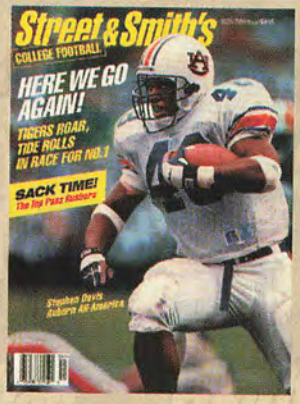


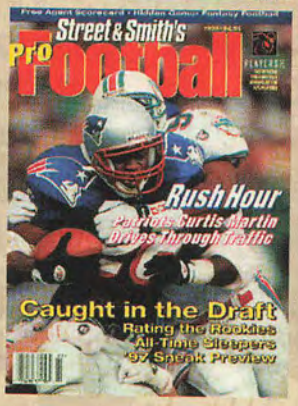

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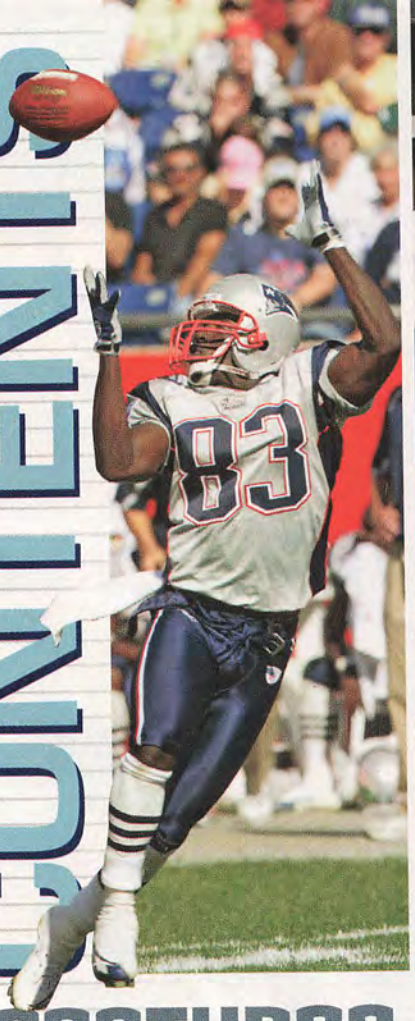

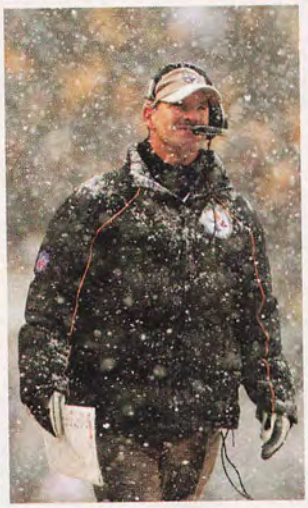

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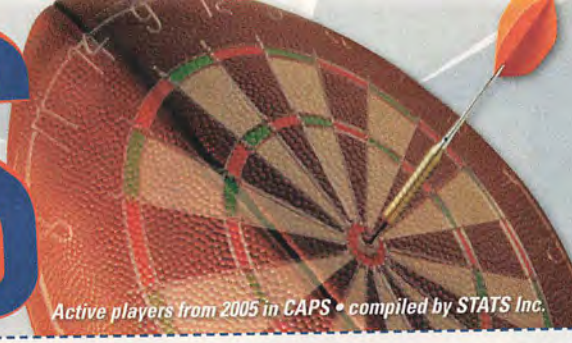

Active players from 2005 in CAPS • compiled by STATS Inc.

## TOUCHDOWNS

| | |
|---|---|
| Jerry Rice | 208 |
| Emmitt Smith | 175 |
| Marcus Allen | 145 |
| MARSHALL FAULK | 136 |
| Cris Carter | 131 |
| Jim Brown | 126 |
| Walter Payton | 125 |
| John Riggins | 116 |
| Lenny Moore | 113 |
| MARVIN HARRISON | 110 |
| Barry Sanders | 109 |
| Tim Brown | 105 |
| Don Hutson | 105 |
| TERRELL OWENS | 103 |
| Steve Largent | 101 |
| SHAUN ALEXANDER | 100 |
| Franco Harris | 100 |
| CURTIS MARTIN | 100 |
| RANDY MOSS | 99 |
| Eric Dickerson | 96 |
| JEROME BETTIS | 94 |
| PRIEST HOLMES | 94 |
| Jim Taylor | 93 |
| Tony Dorsett | 91 |
| Bobby Mitchell | 91 |
| Ricky Watters | 91 |
| Leroy Kelly | 90 |
| Charley Taylor | 90 |
| Irving Fryar | 88 |
| Don Maynard | 88 |
| Andre Reed | 88 |
| Thurman Thomas | 88 |
| Lance Alworth | 87 |
| Ottis Anderson | 86 |

## TOUCHDOWNS

| | |
|---|---|
| Paul Warfield | 86 |
| Mark G. Clayton | 85 |
| Tommy McDonald | 85 |
| Andre Rison | 84 |
| Herschel Walker | 84 |
| Pete Johnson | 82 |
| Art Powell | 82 |
| LaDAINIAN TOMLINSON | 80 |
| Terry Allen | 79 |
| James Brooks | 79 |
| Harold Carmichael | 79 |
| Eddie George | 78 |
| Frank Gifford | 78 |
| Fred Biletnikoff | 77 |
| ISAAC BRUCE | 77 |
| Steve Van Buren | 77 |

## TOUCHDOWN PASSES

| | |
|---|---|
| Dan Marino | 420 |
| BRETT FAVRE | 396 |
| Fran Tarkenton | 342 |
| John Elway | 300 |
| Warren Moon | 291 |
| Johnny Unitas | 290 |
| Joe Montana | 273 |
| VINNY TESTAVERDE | 269 |
| Dave Krieg | 261 |
| Sonny Jurgensen | 255 |
| Dan Fouts | 254 |
| Boomer Esiason | 247 |
| DREW BLEDSOE | 244 |
| John Hadl | 244 |
| PEYTON MANNING | 244 |
| Len Dawson | 239 |

## TOUCHDOWN PASSES

| | |
|---|---|
| Jim Kelly | 237 |
| George Blanda | 236 |
| Steve Young | 232 |
| John Brodie | 214 |
| Terry Bradshaw | 212 |
| Y.A. Tittle | 212 |
| Jim Hart | 209 |
| Randall Cunningham | 207 |
| Jim Everett | 203 |
| Roman Gabriel | 201 |
| Phil Simms | 199 |
| Ken Anderson | 197 |
| Steve DeBerg | 196 |
| Joe Ferguson | 196 |
| Bobby Layne | 196 |
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| Charley Johnson | 170 |
| Troy Aikman | 165 |
| Daryle Lamonica | 164 |
| Jim Plunkett | 164 |

## POINTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Gary Anderson | 2,434 |
| Morten Andersen | 2,358 |
| George Blanda | 2,002 |
| Norm Johnson | 1,736 |
| Nick Lowery | 1,711 |
| Jan Stenerud | 1,699 |
| JOHN CARNEY | 1,634 |
| Eddie Murray | 1,594 |
| MATT STOVER | 1,594 |
| Al Del Greco | 1,584 |
| JASON ELAM | 1,557 |
| Steve Christie | 1,476 |
| Pat Leahy | 1,470 |
| Jim Turner | 1,439 |
| Matt Bahr | 1,422 |
| JASON HANSON | 1,420 |
| Mark Moseley | 1,382 |
| Jim Bakken | 1,380 |
| Fred Cox | 1,365 |
| Lou Groza | 1,349 |
| JOHN KASAY | 1,305 |
| Jerry Rice | 1,256 |
| Jim Breech | 1,246 |
| Pete Stoyanovich | 1,236 |
| Chris Bahr | 1,213 |
| Kevin Butler | 1,208 |
| JEFF WILKINS | 1,188 |
| ADAM VINATIERI | 1,158 |
| Gino Cappelletti | 1,130 |
| Ray Wersching | 1,122 |
| Don Cockroft | 1,080 |
| Garo Yepremian | 1,074 |
| RYAN LONGWELL | 1,054 |
| Emmitt Smith | 1,052 |

## POINTS

| | |
|---|---|
| TODD PETERSON | 1,043 |
| Bruce Gossett | 1,031 |
| Jeff Jaeger | 1,008 |
| MIKE VANDERJAGT | 995 |
| Sam Baker | 977 |
| Greg Davis | 962 |
| Rafael Septien | 960 |
| Lou Michaels | 955 |
| OLINDO MARE | 948 |
| Chris Jacke | 944 |
| Fuad Reveiz | 931 |
| DOUG BRIEN | 915 |
| Chip Lohmiller | 913 |
| Roy Gerela | 903 |
| Bobby Walston | 881 |
| Mike Hollis | 879 |

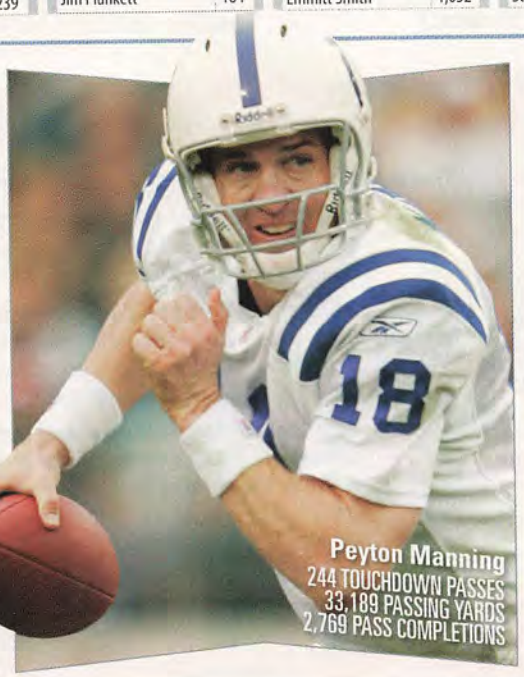
## PASSING YARDAGE

| | |
|---|---|
| Dan Marino | 61,361 |
| BRETT FAVRE | 53,615 |
| John Elway | 51,475 |
| Warren Moon | 49,325 |
| Fran Tarkenton | 47,003 |
| VINNY TESTAVERDE | 45,252 |
| DREW BLEDSOE | 43,447 |
| Dan Fouts | 43,040 |
| Joe Montana | 40,551 |
| Johnny Unitas | 40,239 |
| Dave Krieg | 38,147 |
| Boomer Esiason | 37,920 |
| Jim Kelly | 35,467 |
| Jim Everett | 34,837 |
| Jim Hart | 34,665 |
| Steve DeBerg | 34,241 |

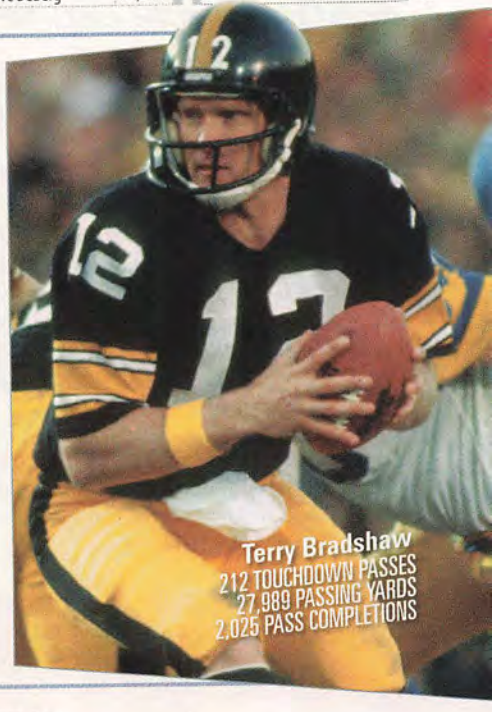
## PASSING YARDAGE

| | |
|---|---|
| KERRY COLLINS | 33,637 |
| John Hadl | 33,503 |
| Phil Simms | 33,462 |
| PEYTON MANNING | 33,189 |
| Steve Young | 33,124 |
| Troy Aikman | 32,942 |
| Ken Anderson | 32,838 |
| Sonny Jurgensen | 32,224 |
| John Brodie | 31,548 |
| Norm Snead | 30,797 |
| MARK BRUNELL | 30,037 |
| Randall Cunningham | 29,979 |
| Joe Ferguson | 29,817 |
| Roman Gabriel | 29,444 |
| Rich Gannon | 28,743 |
| Len Dawson | 28,711 |
| Chris Chandler | 28,484 |
| Y.A. Tittle | 28,339 |
| Ron Jaworski | 28,190 |
| Terry Bradshaw | 27,989 |
| Ken Stabler | 27,938 |
| Craig Morton | 27,908 |
| Joe Namath | 27,663 |
| Jeff George | 27,602 |
| JAKE PLUMMER | 27,259 |
| STEVE McNAIR | 27,141 |
| George Blanda | 26,920 |
| Steve Grogan | 26,886 |
| Bobby Layne | 26,768 |
| Jim Harbaugh | 26,288 |
| Jim Plunkett | 25,882 |
| BRAD JOHNSON | 25,798 |
| TRENT GREEN | 25,621 |
| Joe Theismann | 25,206 |

LaDainian Tomlinson
80 TOUCHDOWNS
7,361 RUSHING YARDS

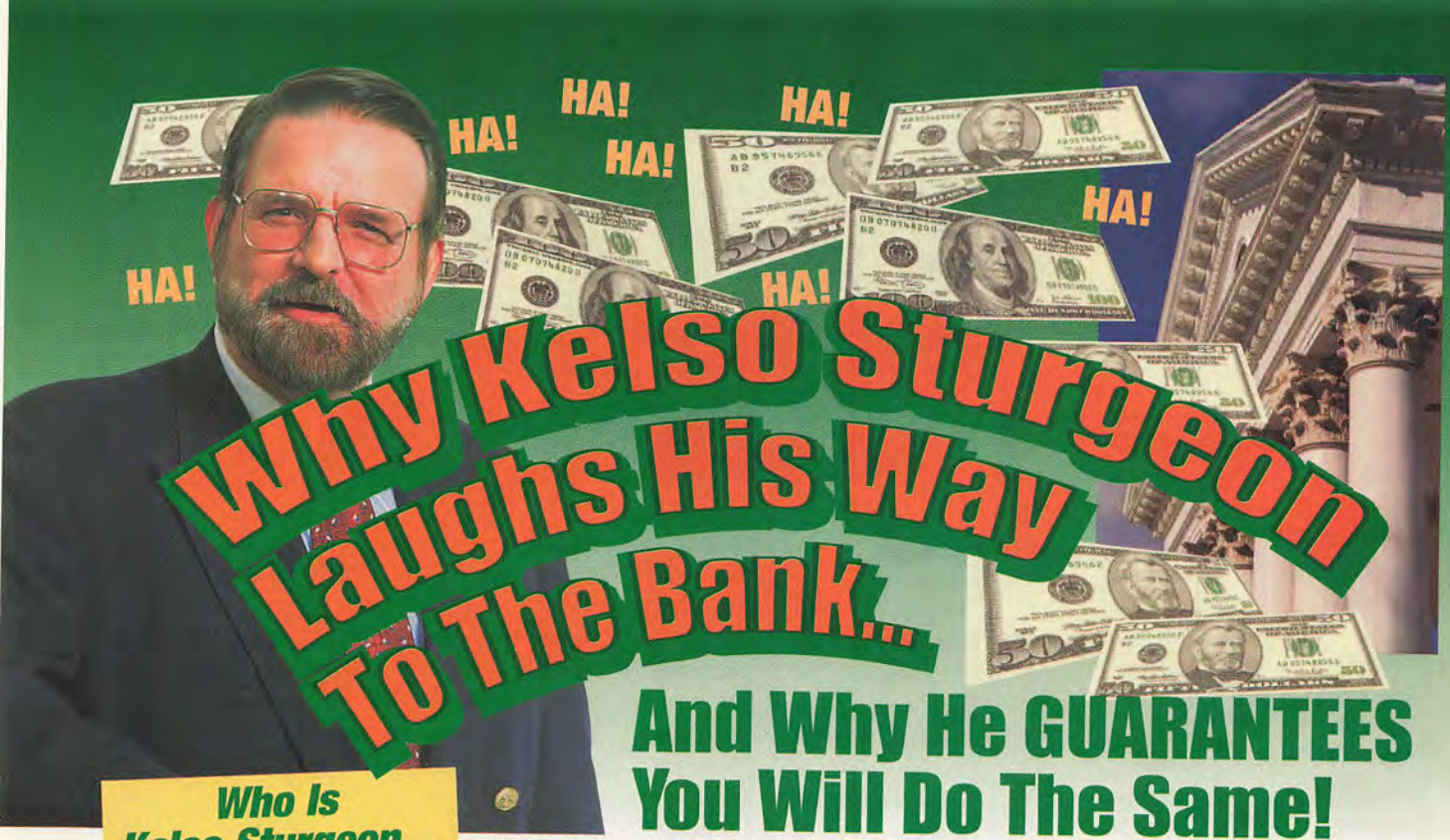


Peyton Manning
244 TOUCHDOWN PASSES
33,189 PASSING YARDS
2,769 PASS COMPLETIONS



Terry Bradshaw
212 TOUCHDOWN PASSES
27,989 PASSING YARDS
2,025 PASS COMPLETIONS

(L TO R): MIKE ALLEN; TOM DIPACE / SPORTSCHROME; MALCOLM EMMONS / US PRESSWIRE

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- *Seen on TV's Pro Line (USA Cable Network)*
- *Profiled in: Wall Street Journal, NY Times, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post and Playboy.*
- *Creator of the famous "World Series of Handicapping"*
- *Only sports handicapper to ever address the United States Congress on the subject of sports handicapping.*

### BIG GAME WINNERS FROM '05

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| S 1 | Conn (-18) Buffalo | 38-0 | W | 10 |
| | V'bilt (+8) Wake For | 24-20 | W | 3 |
| | Oreg (-7½) Houston | 38-24 | W | 2 |
| S17 | ***College Blowout Game of Year*** | | | |
| | Missouri (-19½) Troy | 52-21 | W | 25 |
| S24 | ***College Game of Year*** | | | |
| | Ariz St (-6½) Oreg St | 42-24 | W | 100 |
| O 2 | ***NFL Parlay of Year*** | | | |
| | Colts (-7) Titans | 31-10 | W | 10 |
| | Raiders (-3½) Cowboys | 19-13 | W | 10 |
| | Parlay of Colts & Raiders | | W | 10 |
| O 9 | ***NFL Game of the Year*** | | | |
| | Browns (-3) Bears | 20-10 | W | 50 |
| O13 | ***Thursday Night Game of Month*** | | | |
| | Clemson (+4) NC State | 31-10 | W | 15 |
| O23 | ***College Upset Game of Month*** | | | |
| | Auburn (+6) LSU | 17-20 | W | 25 |
| O30 | ***NFL Side and Total Parlay of Month*** | | | |
| | Panthers (-7) Vikings | 38-14 | W | 10 |
| | Over 46½ | | W | 3 |
| | Parlay of side & total | | W | 2 |

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# TARGETS

## PASS COMPLETIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Dan Marino | 4,967 |
| BRETT FAVRE | 4,678 |
| John Elway | 4,123 |
| Warren Moon | 3,988 |
| DREW BLEDSOE | 3,749 |
| VINNY TESTAVERDE | 3,691 |
| Fran Tarkenton | 3,686 |
| Joe Montana | 3,409 |
| Dan Fouts | 3,297 |
| Dave Krieg | 3,105 |
| Boomer Esiason | 2,969 |
| Troy Aikman | 2,898 |
| Steve DeBerg | 2,874 |
| Jim Kelly | 2,874 |
| Jim Everett | 2,841 |
| Johnny Unitas | 2,830 |
| KERRY COLLINS | 2,826 |
| PEYTON MANNING | 2,769 |
| Steve Young | 2,667 |
| Ken Anderson | 2,654 |
| Jim Hart | 2,593 |
| MARK BRUNELL | 2,576 |
| Phil Simms | 2,576 |
| Rich Gannon | 2,533 |
| John Brodie | 2,469 |
| Sonny Jurgensen | 2,433 |
| Randall Cunningham | 2,429 |
| Joe Ferguson | 2,369 |
| Roman Gabriel | 2,366 |
| John Hadl | 2,363 |
| BRAD JOHNSON | 2,350 |
| Chris Chandler | 2,328 |
| JAKE PLUMMER | 2,309 |
| Jim Harbaugh | 2,305 |
| STEVE McNAIR | 2,305 |
| Jeff George | 2,298 |
| Norm Snead | 2,276 |
| Ken Stabler | 2,270 |
| Ron Jaworski | 2,187 |
| Len Dawson | 2,136 |
| Y.A. Tittle | 2,118 |
| Ken O'Brien | 2,110 |
| Craig Morton | 2,053 |
| Joe Theismann | 2,044 |
| Terry Bradshaw | 2,025 |
| TRENT GREEN | 2,022 |
| Tommy Kramer | 2,012 |
| Archie Manning | 2,011 |
| Bernie Kosar | 1,994 |
| Brian Sipe | 1,944 |

## RUSHING YARDAGE

| | |
|---|---|
| Emmitt Smith | 18,355 |
| Walter Payton | 16,726 |
| Barry Sanders | 15,269 |
| CURTIS MARTIN | 14,101 |
| JEROME BETTIS | 13,662 |

## RUSHING YARDAGE

| | |
|---|---|
| Eric Dickerson | 13,259 |
| Tony Dorsett | 12,739 |
| Jim Brown | 12,312 |
| MARSHALL FAULK | 12,279 |
| Marcus Allen | 12,243 |
| Franco Harris | 12,120 |
| Thurman Thomas | 12,074 |
| John Riggins | 11,352 |
| O.J. Simpson | 11,236 |
| Ricky Watters | 10,643 |
| Eddie George | 10,441 |
| COREY DILLON | 10,429 |
| Ottis Anderson | 10,273 |
| Earl Campbell | 9,407 |
| EDGERRIN JAMES | 9,226 |
| TIKI BARBER | 8,787 |
| Terry Allen | 8,614 |
| Jim Taylor | 8,597 |
| Joe Perry | 8,378 |
| FRED TAYLOR | 8,367 |
| WARRICK DUNN | 8,321 |
| Earnest Byner | 8,261 |
| Herschel Walker | 8,225 |
| Roger Craig | 8,189 |
| Gerald Riggs | 8,188 |
| Larry Csonka | 8,081 |
| Freeman McNeil | 8,074 |
| PRIEST HOLMES | 8,035 |
| Garrison Hearst | 7,966 |
| James Brooks | 7,962 |
| STEPHEN DAVIS | 7,875 |
| SHAUN ALEXANDER | 7,817 |
| Chris Warren | 7,696 |
| Terrell Davis | 7,607 |
| AHMAN GREEN | 7,432 |
| Mike Pruitt | 7,378 |
| LaDAINIAN TOMLINSON | 7,361 |
| Leroy Kelly | 7,274 |
| George Rogers | 7,176 |
| Charlie Garner | 7,097 |
| RICKY WILLIAMS | 7,097 |
| Rodney Hampton | 6,897 |
| ANTOWAIN SMITH | 6,881 |
| Curt Warner | 6,844 |
| Robert Smith | 6,818 |

## RECEPTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Jerry Rice | 1,549 |
| Cris Carter | 1,101 |
| Tim Brown | 1,094 |
| Andre Reed | 951 |
| Art Monk | 940 |
| MARVIN HARRISON | 927 |
| JIMMY SMITH | 862 |
| Irving Fryar | 851 |
| Larry Centers | 827 |
| KEENAN MCCARDELL | 825 |
| Steve Largent | 819 |

## RECEPTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Shannon Sharpe | 815 |
| Henry Ellard | 814 |
| ISAAC BRUCE | 813 |
| ROD SMITH | 797 |
| MARSHALL FAULK | 767 |
| James Lofton | 764 |
| Michael Irvin | 750 |
| Charlie Joiner | 750 |
| KEYSHAWN JOHNSON | 744 |
| Andre Rison | 743 |
| TERRELL OWENS | 716 |
| Gary Clark | 699 |
| Terance Mathis | 689 |
| ERIC MOULDS | 675 |
| Herman Moore | 670 |
| RICKY PROEHL | 666 |
| Ozzie Newsome | 662 |
| Charley Taylor | 649 |
| TONY GONZALEZ | 648 |
| MUHSIN MUHAMMAD | 642 |
| Drew Hill | 634 |
| RANDY MOSS | 634 |
| Don Maynard | 633 |
| Raymond Berry | 631 |
| Rob Moore | 628 |
| JOHNNIE MORTON | 624 |
| TORRY HOLT | 619 |
| Keith Byars | 610 |
| Anthony Miller | 595 |
| Sterling Sharpe | 595 |
| Curtis Conway | 594 |
| Tony Martin | 593 |
| Harold Carmichael | 590 |
| Fred Biletnikoff | 589 |
| Marcus Allen | 587 |
| Bill Brooks | 583 |
| Mark G. Clayton | 582 |
| Brian Blades | 581 |
| Ronnie Harmon | 581 |

## RECEIVING YARDS

| | |
|---|---|
| Jerry Rice | 22,895 |
| Tim Brown | 14,934 |
| James Lofton | 14,004 |
| Cris Carter | 13,899 |
| Henry Ellard | 13,777 |

## RECEIVING YARDS

| | |
|---|---|
| Andre Reed | 13,198 |
| Steve Largent | 13,089 |
| Irving Fryar | 12,785 |
| Art Monk | 12,721 |
| MARVIN HARRISON | 12,331 |
| JIMMY SMITH | 12,287 |
| ISAAC BRUCE | 12,278 |
| Charlie Joiner | 12,146 |
| Michael Irvin | 11,904 |
| Don Maynard | 11,834 |
| ROD SMITH | 10,877 |
| Gary Clark | 10,856 |
| Stanley Morgan | 10,716 |
| KEENAN McCARDELL | 10,680 |
| TERRELL OWENS | 10,535 |
| Harold Jackson | 10,372 |
| Lance Alworth | 10,266 |
| Andre Rison | 10,205 |
| RANDY MOSS | 10,147 |
| Shannon Sharpe | 10,060 |
| Drew Hill | 9,831 |
| KEYSHAWN JOHNSON | 9,756 |
| TORRY HOLT | 9,487 |
| Rob Moore | 9,368 |
| Raymond Berry | 9,275 |
| Herman Moore | 9,174 |
| Anthony Miller | 9,148 |
| Charley Taylor | 9,110 |
| ERIC MOULDS | 9,096 |
| Tony Martin | 9,065 |
| Harold Carmichael | 8,985 |
| Fred Biletnikoff | 8,974 |
| Mark G. Clayton | 8,974 |
| Wes Chandler | 8,966 |
| Roy Green | 8,965 |
| Mark Duper | 8,869 |
| RICKY PROEHL | 8,848 |
| Terance Mathis | 8,809 |
| Mark Carrier | 8,763 |
| John Stallworth | 8,723 |
| JOHNNIE MORTON | 8,719 |
| Cliff Branch | 8,685 |
| Paul Warfield | 8,565 |
| JOEY GALLOWAY | 8,501 |
| MUHSIN MUHAMMAD | 8,501 |

## INTERCEPTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Paul Krause | 81 |
| Emlen Tunnell | 79 |
| Rod Woodson | 71 |
| Dick "Night Train" Lane | 68 |
| Ken Riley | 65 |
| Ronnie Lott | 63 |
| Dave Brown | 62 |
| Dick LeBeau | 62 |
| Emmitt Thomas | 58 |
| Mel Blount | 57 |
| Bobby Boyd | 57 |
| Eugene Robinson | 57 |
| Johnny Robinson | 57 |
| Everson Walls | 57 |
| Lem Barney | 56 |
| Pat Fischer | 56 |
| Aeneas Williams | 55 |
| Eric Allen | 54 |
| Willie Brown | 54 |
| Darrell Green | 54 |
| DEION SANDERS | 53 |
| Jack Butler | 52 |
| Bobby Dillon | 52 |
| Jimmy Patton | 52 |
| Mel Renfro | 52 |
| Larry Wilson | 52 |
| Bobby Bryant | 51 |
| Donnie Shell | 51 |
| TERRELL BUCKLEY | 50 |
| Don Burroughs | 50 |
| Deron Cherry | 50 |
| John Harris | 50 |
| Yale Lary | 50 |
| Ken Houston | 49 |
| Jake Scott | 49 |
| Herb Adderley | 48 |
| Dave Grayson | 48 |
| Richie Petitbon | 48 |
| Dave Waymer | 48 |
| Willie Wood | 48 |
| Ray Buchanan | 47 |
| Jim Johnson | 47 |
| Lemar Parrish | 47 |
| TROY VINCENT | 47 |
| Jack Christiansen | 46 |
| Goose Gonsoulin | 46 |

## INTERCEPTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Mike Haynes | 46 |
| TY LAW | 46 |
| Ed Meador | 46 |
| Dave Whitsell | 46 |

## SACKS

| | |
|---|---|
| Bruce Smith | 200.0 |
| Reggie White | 198.0 |
| Kevin Greene | 160.0 |
| Chris Doleman | 150.5 |
| Richard Dent | 137.5 |
| John Randle | 137.5 |
| Leslie O'Neal | 132.5 |
| Lawrence Taylor | 132.5 |
| MICHAEL STRAHAN | 129.5 |
| Rickey Jackson | 128.0 |
| Derrick Thomas | 126.5 |
| Clyde Simmons | 121.5 |
| SIMEON RICE | 119.0 |
| Sean Jones | 113.0 |
| Greg Townsend | 109.5 |
| Pat Swilling | 107.5 |
| Trace Armstrong | 106.0 |
| Neil Smith | 104.5 |
| Jim Jeffcoat | 102.5 |
| William Fuller | 100.5 |
| Charles Haley | 100.5 |
| Andre Tippett | 100.0 |
| Simon Fletcher | 97.5 |
| Jacob Green | 97.5 |
| Dexter Manley | 97.5 |
| Robert Porcher | 95.5 |
| Steve McMichael | 95.0 |
| Henry Thomas | 93.5 |
| JASON TAYLOR | 92.5 |
| KEVIN CARTER | 92.0 |
| Ken Harvey | 89.0 |
| WARREN SAPP | 84.5 |
| Howie Long | 84.0 |
| Leonard Marshall | 83.5 |
| Charles Mann | 83.0 |
| Wayne Martin | 82.5 |
| Lee Williams | 82.5 |
| Tim Harris | 81.0 |
| Hugh Douglas | 80.0 |
| Jason Gildon | 80.0 |
| Karl Mecklenburg | 79.0 |
| CHAD BROWN | 78.0 |
| WILLIE McGINEST | 78.0 |
| BRYANT YOUNG | 77.5 |
| Ray Childress | 76.5 |
| Bryce Paup | 75.0 |
| Mark Gastineau | 74.0 |
| Michael Sinclair | 73.5 |
| Rob Burnett | 73.0 |
| Cornelius Bennett | 71.5 |
| LA'ROI GLOVER | 71.5 |

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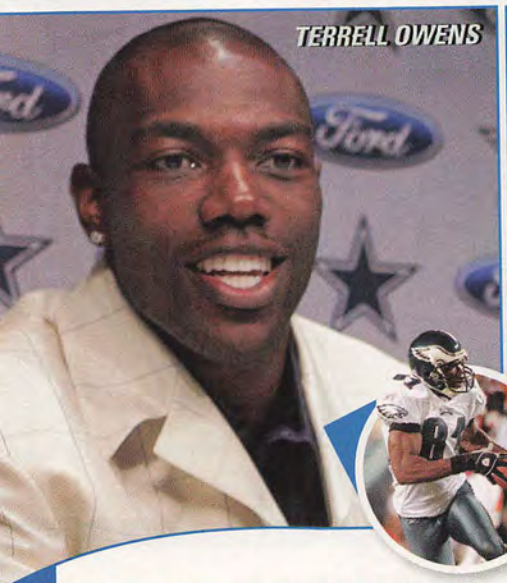
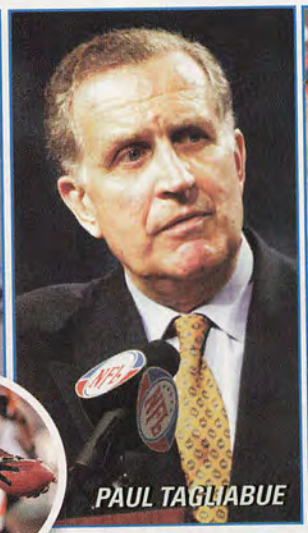


*Last year and this offseason produced enough drama to keep any pro football fan thirsty for what this fall has to offer.*

How big has the NFL become? Look no further than this offseason, when in April the NFL Network ran a two-hour special on the release of this year's schedules.

For those still not convinced, how about the fact that ESPN had a "live" announcement on "SportsCenter" about who would appear on the cover of the Madden 2007 video game?

Some football fans will take any fix they can get in the period between the final snap of the Pro Bowl and the beginning of training camp in July. A lot has happened since the Steelers became the first No. 6 seed in NFL history to win a Super Bowl, so here's a look ahead, along with a review of some highlights and lowlights of last season.

For the record, this year's Madden cover will feature Shaun Alexander, who will hope to avoid the "Madden Curse" that has counted Marshall Faulk (2002, broken ankle), Michael Vick (2003, broken leg) and Donovan McNabb (2005, sports hernia) among its victims.

Fantasy football players, you've been warned.

(L TO R): RON HEFLIN / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; TOMASSO DEROSA; DAVID DRAPKIN / GETTY IMAGES; SPORTSCHROME; ROBERT B. STANTON / WIRE IMAGE.COM; SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES

# FURTHER VIEW

By **Matt McKenzie**
*Street & Smith's Staff Writer*

## NEW FACES, NEW PLACES

Each new year brings various position changes in the NFL, but this offseason took on a life of its own, beginning with the signing of receiver Terrell Owens by the Cowboys.

The controversial superstar hasn't played since the Eagles suspended him last October for "conduct detrimental to the team." Despite his numerous outbursts and tirades, Owens was one of the most coveted players in free agency, thanks to his speed and big-play ability. Dallas beat out Denver and Washington as potential suitors, but it remains to be seen how the five-time Pro Bowler will coexist with hard-line Cowboys Coach Bill Parcells.

Although Owens leads the list of free agents playing elsewhere in 2006, this offseason will be remembered more for one of the largest big-name quarterback carousels in NFL history.

It all started March 14, when Daunte Culpepper was traded to Miami and Drew Brees signed with New Orleans. Those two additions set the tone for a free-agent QB frenzy.

Try to keep up, if you can.

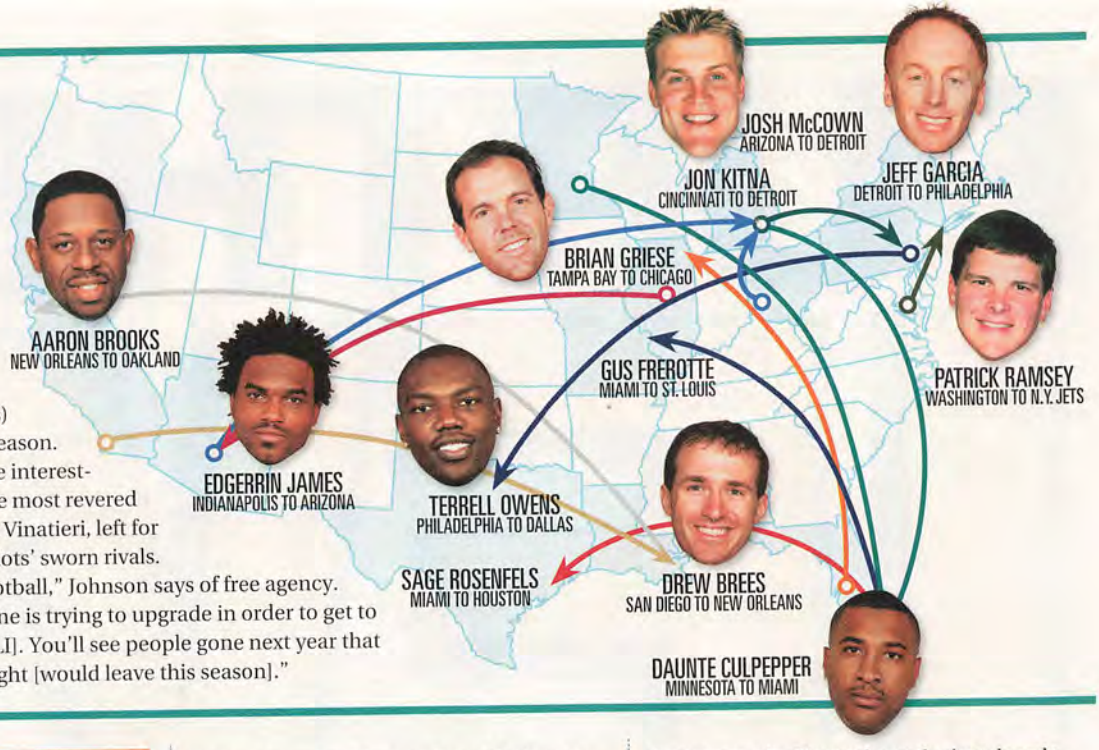
The addition of Brees to the Saints meant Aaron Brooks was no longer needed in New Orleans, so he signed with the Raiders, who in turn released Kerry Collins. And with Culpepper in tow, the Dolphins released Gus Frerotte (who signed with the Rams) and Sage Rosenfels (who inked a deal with Houston).

Detroit changed its QB controversy from Jeff Garcia (now with the Eagles) and Joey Harrington (who was not expected to be re-signed) to a battle between Jon Kitna (ex-Bengal) and Josh McCown (ex-Cardinal). Those two won't be the only ones fighting it out in training camp and the preseason, as the Jets traded for Washington's Patrick Ramsey in case Chad Pennington's shoulder isn't fully recovered, while the Bears signed Brian Griese away from the Bucs to challenge Rex Grossman and Kyle Orton for their starting spot.

Teams are more than willing to gamble lots of loot on finding a new quarterback these days, even if that player is somewhat inexperienced. For example, former Packers backup Craig Nall signed a three-year, $4.27 million contract with Buffalo that included a $1.3 million signing bonus. Todd Collins, who held the clipboard for the Chiefs last year, signed with Washington for two years at $2.5 million.

Total number of snaps taken by those two QBs last seaason? Five—all by Collins, in the waning minutes of Kansas City's 45-17 slaughter of Houston in Week 10.

GAME IMAGES COURTESY EA SPORTS; (L TO R): AL MESSERSCHMIDT / WIRE IMAGE.COM; JOHN AMIS / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; ELSA / GETTY IMAGES




Along with Brees, Culpepper and Owens, other big names were also on the move. Wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson (Panthers), running back Edgerrin James (Cardinals), running back Mike Anderson (Ravens), linebacker Willie McGinest (Browns) and wideout Antwaan Randle El (Redskins) will all don new jerseys this season. And it made for an even more interesting offseason when one of the most revered kickers in NFL history, Adam Vinatieri, left for Indianapolis, one of the Patriots' sworn rivals.

"That's just how it is in football," Johnson says of free agency. "It's totally business. Everyone is trying to upgrade in order to get to Miami [site of Super Bowl XLI]. You'll see people gone next year that you wouldn't even had thought [would leave this season]."

## REPLACING SAINT PAUL

Shortly after helping broker the NFL's newest labor agreement, Commissioner Paul Tagliabue announced he would retire from the position he's held since 1989.

"As difficult as this decision is, I also know it's the right decision," Tagliabue said in a March conference call. "Right for me. Right for the league."

Tagliabue, 65, officially steps down in July, but will remain with the NFL as a consultant and senior executive through 2008. Since he replaced Pete Rozelle, Tagliabue has guided professional football to unprecedented popularity and revenue.

GOODELL

McKAY

The NFL has grown exponentially, reaching new markets in Phoenix, Charlotte, Jacksonville and Nashville. Tagliabue has also helped the sport go global, as exhibition games have been played in Australia, Europe and Japan. Last year, the Cardinals and 49ers played in Mexico City, marking the first time an NFL regular-season game took place outside the U.S.

Tagliabue's time didn't come without turmoil, however. Labor strikes occurred in 1982 and 1987, and there are still many questions regarding the sport's linkage with steroids. While the latter will likely remain unanswered, Tagliabue allayed potential labor strife shortly before retiring, working with NFL Players Union Executive Director Gene Upshaw to extend the current collective-bargaining agreement through the 2011 season.

Reportedly, the top candidates to replace Tagliabue are NFL Chief Operating Officer Roger Goodell and Falcons General Manager Rich McKay. Whoever gets the job will have some big shoes to fill, considering Tagliabue's stature among NFL owners and officials.

"Paul Tagliabue guided the NFL through a period of remarkable transition and tremendous growth," says New York Jets owner Woody Johnson. "During his 16 years as commissioner, the NFL reached into more homes and touched more lives than ever before. Thanks to Paul's leadership, the NFL enjoys a partnership between owners and players that is unrivaled in professional sports."

## THE BATTLE FOR LOS ANGELES

During the announcement of his retirement, Tagliabue said one of his biggest regrets during his time as commissioner is that he never got pro football back to Los Angeles.

The nation's second-largest media market hasn't had a team since 1994, when the Rams moved to St. Louis. During that same time, the Raiders headed back north to Oakland. Just like that, the City of Angels went from having two teams to none.

Tagliabue previously said he'd like to see a team in Los Angeles by 2008, but indicated at this year's NFL owners' meeting that a target date of 2010 or beyond is a more likely scenario. Throughout the last decade, it's been a struggle to even formulate a plan to return football to L.A., which makes some wonder whether the city wants or would support a new team.

In the late 1990s, plans were to expand the NFL to an even 32 teams, with Los Angeles the first in mind for obvious reasons. However, arguments between potential owners and the city's leaders worried the expansion committee, which then brought Houston into the mix.

The committee was more than accommodating to L.A., giving the city an extra six months to come up with a formal stadium and ownership plan. The additional time did nothing to help, however, and Houston was awarded the NFL's 32nd franchise in 1999.

The same problems that plagued the city's plan five years ago remain, particularly regarding future stadium locations. Currently, two sites are under consideration—a new stadium in Anaheim, along with a massive renovation of Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Both would carry a pricetag of more than $800 million—a source of concern for potential ownership groups, as neither city is in favor of using public money to fund a stadium.

Then there's the question of where this team is going to come from. A new franchise would put the NFL back at an uneven 33 teams, plus add one more pot from which to share revenue.

Of course, there's

HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL; GOODELL: JIMMY CRIBB, MCKAY: AL MESSERSCHMIDT / WIRE IMAGE.COM

always the potential of a team moving from its current location to Los Angeles.

In the past, the city has been used as somewhat of a bargaining chip for other teams to "encourage" their residents into voting for a new stadium, as was the case this year in Kansas City and Minnesota. As it stands, four NFL cities are possible relocation candidates:

• Buffalo—Bills owner Ralph Wilson was a strong opponent of the league's newest collective-bargaining agreement, noting small-market teams like Buffalo would be on the outside looking in when it comes to revenue-sharing. The western New York area has also fallen on rough economic times and the team's stadium (named after Wilson)—built in 1973—features only 164 luxury suites.

"How long can [the Bills] stay here? I don't know," Wilson said at a press conference in April. "But I can tell you we're going to fight very, very hard to keep the team here to try to be competitive with the rest of the league."

• Jacksonville—Due to sagging attendance, the Jaguars covered about 10,000 seats last season to give Alltel Stadium a "sold-out" feel, yet there were still games where large areas of seats were empty. In a list of NFL team valuations (based on such items as debt, revenue and operating income) calculated by *Forbes* last year, Jacksonville was ranked 27th among the 32 teams.

Jaguars owner Wayne Weaver says he is committed to keeping the team in Jacksonville, but concerns are high enough that last November a group of fans started a Web site, www.keepjagsinjax.com, to boost the team.

• New Orleans—After the destruction and anguish caused by Hurricane Katrina, there's no way the Saints would move, right? Think again. Although Tagliabue and Saints owner Tom Benson announced at a January press conference that the team would be returning to the Louisiana Superdome for its home games this season, much remains in the air. New Orleans still has years to go in recovery and the Saints can't expect to turn a profit in front of a half-full stadium, especially one as big as the Superdome.

And it didn't reassure Saints supporters when, at that same press conference, Benson said he was committed to keeping the team in New Orleans "forever, as long as the community commits to me."

• San Diego—Not too far from L.A. (125 miles to be exact) sits the Chargers, who have an aging stadium and widespread problems regarding the team's future. The city, which is going through multiple financial problems, had to pull a November ballot proposal for a new stadium last year.

Without a resolution, other cities may begin talking to the Chargers about relocation in January, and the team would be able to move from San Diego after the 2008 season. Given the proximity, Los Angeles or Anaheim would be logical choices.

## OUT OF BOUNDS

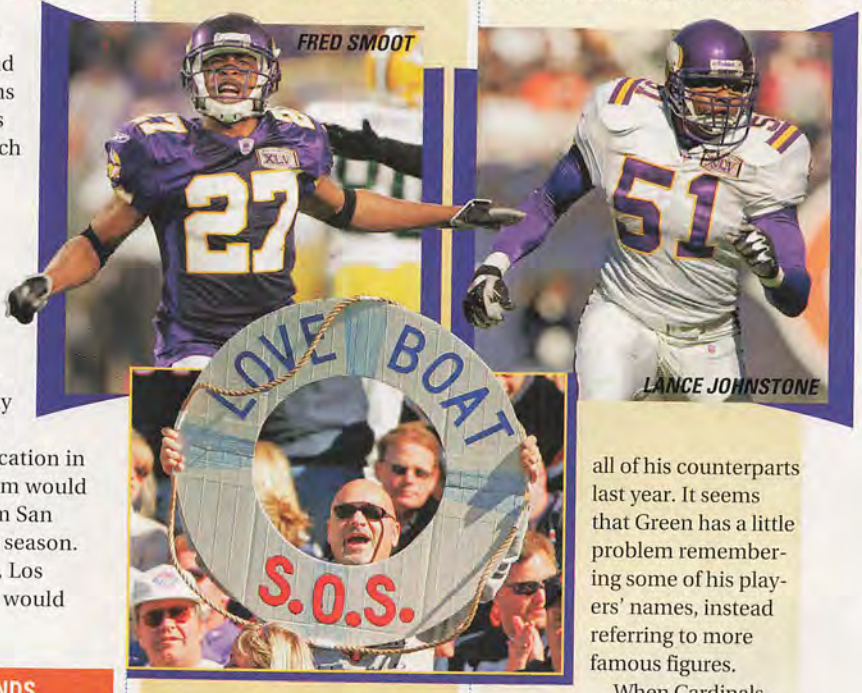
What would an NFL season be without comic relief? Well, for the people involved, it wasn't so funny, but it certainly gives fans something different to talk about from Tuesday to Saturday.

Last season certainly saw its share of off-the-field scandals, most of which carried an NC-17 rating. Two Carolina Panthers cheerleaders, Angela Keathley and Renee Thomas, made national headlines after allegedly engaging in some, um, extracurricular activity in a bathroom stall at a Tampa nightclub. The two women were dismissed from the cheerleading squad, but not before becoming the butt of jokes on late-night talk shows everywhere.

RENEE THOMAS

ANGELA KEATHLEY

And who could forget the now infamous "Love Boat" incident in Minnesota, where some members of the Vikings took part in a boat party that involved exotic dancers. Certainly not the crew of Al & Alma's Supper Club and Charter Cruises, which got an eyeful more than its normal guided tour around Lake Minnetonka.




Of all the players involved, Minnesota cornerback Fred Smoot had the toughest aftermath. Court papers showed that he and defensive end Lance Johnstone arranged for the charter, and the criminal complaint against Smoot is quite graphic and unsuitable for this magazine, unless *Street & Smith's* decides to start packaging its issues in polybags.

Almost a month after the incident, Smoot, a notorious trash-talker, sounded off to Panthers receiver Steve Smith prior to the Vikings' game at Carolina. Smith then went on to burn Smoot for a franchise-record 201 yards and one touchdown—and it was later revealed that Smoot had broken his right collarbone, which caused him to miss four games.

Adding insult to injury (literally), after Smith's TD, the Pro Bowl wideout sat in the end zone, pretending to row a boat. When asked after the game what he was doing, Smith said he was "on that lake."

NFL head coaches are always strong targets for some good sound bites as well, but Arizona's Dennis Green beat out all of his counterparts last year. It seems that Green has a little problem remembering some of his players' names, instead referring to more famous figures.

When Cardinals wide receiver LeRon McCoy was moved up to replace injured Arizona star Anquan Boldin, Green twice mistakenly called McCoy "LeBron James." The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* also reported that Green once referred to defensive tackle Langston Moore as "Langston Hughes."

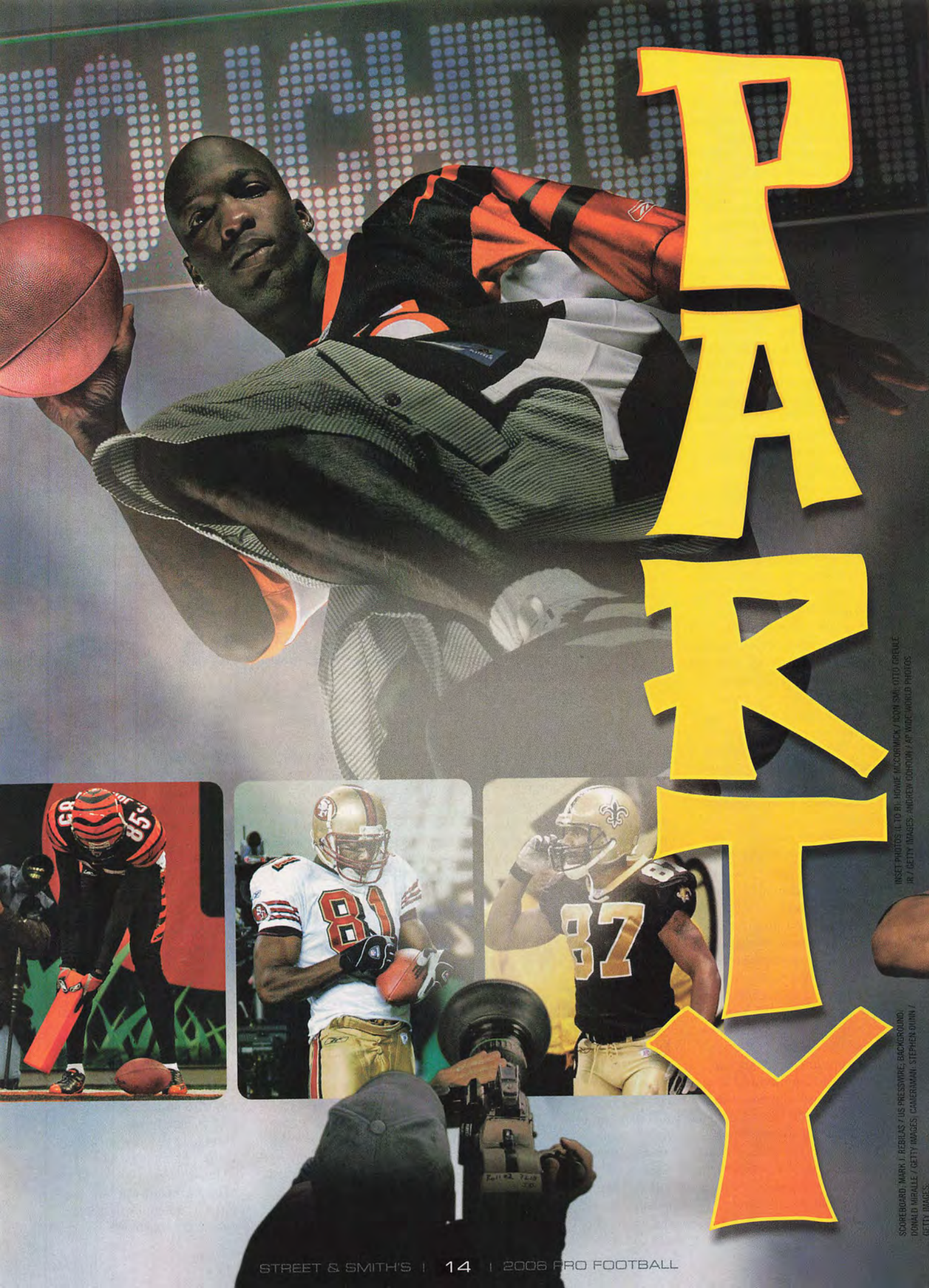
Said McCoy, a 2005 seventh-round draft pick out of Division II Indiana (Pa.), "That's not good if the coach doesn't know your name."

However, the quote of the 2005 NFL season comes from Joe Starkey, the San Francisco 49ers play-by-play announcer. Starkey mentioned during one broadcast that for every touchdown San Francisco scored during the season, Wells Fargo would give $5,000 to the 49ers Foundation, a community-outreach program that helps underprivileged children, among others.

Starkey paused, then added: "There's going to be a lot of sad kids."

For the record, the 4-12 49ers scored 23 touchdowns, second worst in the league. **S&S**

KEATHLEY / THOMAS: HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; SMOOT: TOM DAHLIN / WIRE IMAGE.COM; JOHNSTONE: DAVID STLUKA / GETTY IMAGES; FAN: PAUL SPINELLI / GETTY IMAGES




INSET PHOTOS: (L TO R): HOWIE MCCORMICK / ICON SMI; OTTO GREULE JR / GETTY IMAGES; ANDREW COHOON / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

SCOREBOARD: MARK J. REBILAS / US PRESSWIRE; BACKGROUND: DONALD MIRALLE / GETTY IMAGES; CAMERAMAN: STEPHEN DUNN / GETTY IMAGES

# POOPERS!

With its crackdown on end-zone celebrations this season, the NFL is throwing water on the fire that gave us Ickey's shuffle, T.O.'s Sharpie and Joe's cell phone.

**By Pete Williams**

When Chad Johnson and his fellow NFL showmen reach the end zone this season, they'll have to think twice before launching into an extended celebration complete with props and self-indulgent antics.

NFL owners passed a resolution during their annual meeting in March giving officials the power to issue a 15-yard unsportsmanlike-conduct penalty on the ensuing kickoff for excessive celebrations anywhere on the field.

No longer can players use props, such as Johnson's pylon putt, Terrell Owens' Sharpie signing or Joe Horn's cell phone. They cannot drop to the ground, which eliminates Owens' sit-ups and Steve Smith's snow angel and rowboat routines. And though there's no official time constraint, referees can issue a warning if a celebration goes too long and a flag if the warning is not heeded.

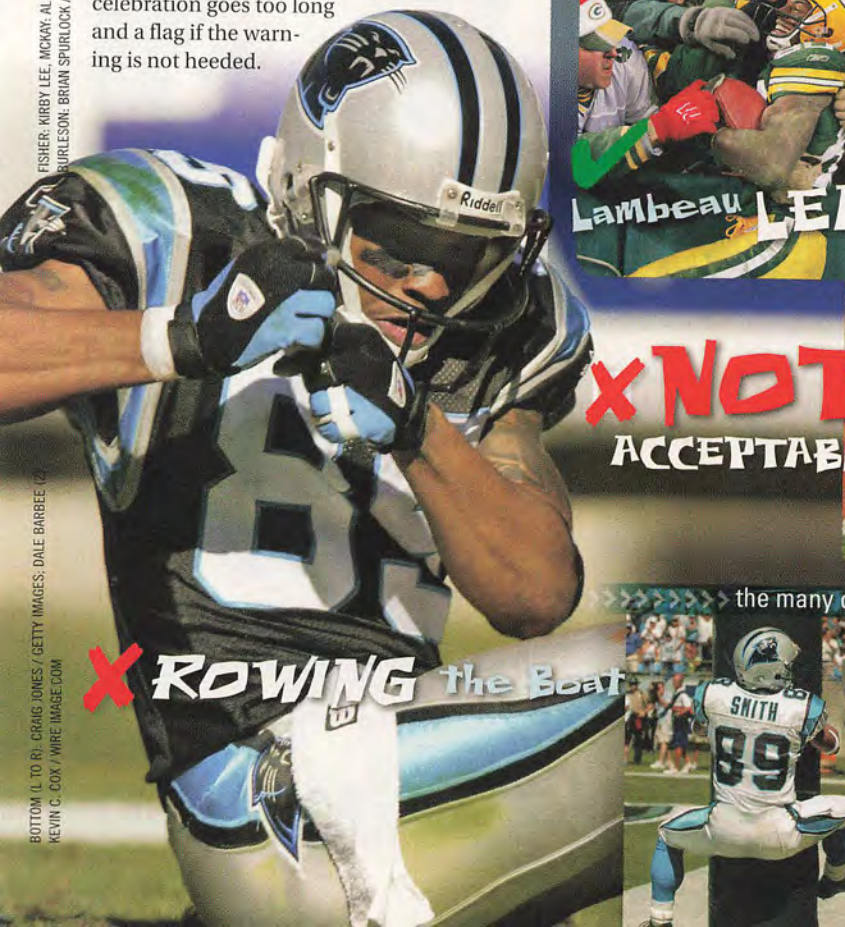
"We felt the individual celebration was on the verge of getting out of hand," says Tennessee Coach Jeff Fisher, who as co-chairman of the NFL Competition Committee spends most of his time on more weighty matters such as rule changes and player safety.

The move, approved 29-3 by the owners, is the latest in a series of end-zone crackdowns the NFL has made dating back to 1984, when the league outlawed the choreographed group high-five staged by the Washington Redskins' "Fun Bunch."

"We've allowed those things to creep back," says Rich McKay, the general manager of the Atlanta Falcons who co-chairs the committee with Fisher. "They are not necessary and should not be allowed."

The players still have, well, wiggle room. They can spike, dance, perform a "Lambeau Leap," spin the ball or dunk it over the goalpost. An encore performance of Johnson's highlight-reel "Riverdance" is still acceptable since he remains on his feet while doing it.

"I'm looking forward to seeing what Chad Johnson will come up with," says Colts Coach Tony Dungy. "It's going to make people think, be original, make people celebrate without props."




BOTTOM (L TO R): CRAIG JONES / GETTY IMAGES; DALE BARBEE (2); KEVIN C. COX / WIRE IMAGE.COM

FISHER: KIRBY LEE. MCKAY: AL MESSERSCHMIDT. LEAP: ANDY MANIS. SITUP: TOM BRIGLIA / WIRE IMAGE.COM; BURLESON: BRIAN SPURLOCK / US PRESSWIRE

Dungy represents the progressive viewpoint. A stoic figure on the sidelines, he's enjoyed the non-celebrations of wide receiver Marvin Harrison (110 touchdowns and counting). During his years coaching Tampa Bay, Dungy often handed the ball on the goal line to Mike Alstott, who, aside from accepting some hugs and high-fives from teammates, has refrained from celebrating, holding on to his 55 touchdown balls for souvenirs.

At the same time, Dungy and other league officials recognize that the era of Barry Sanders politely flipping the ball to an official is over and that end-zone theater has a place in a modern sports culture that embraces its most self-absorbed figures.

"If you look at it from a fan's standpoint, I believe they like it," Carolina Panthers Coach John Fox says. "I know in my town, with Steve [Smith], they like it. What the league is concerned with is where does it stop? It's an image thing. We spend a lot of time on how the players dress, with their shirts being tucked in. Different things to express individuality are not allowed."

Even many players believed the celebrations had gotten out of hand, which was why several leaders of the NFL Players Association—mostly on the defensive side of the ball—approached Fisher and McKay at the NFL Combine in February.

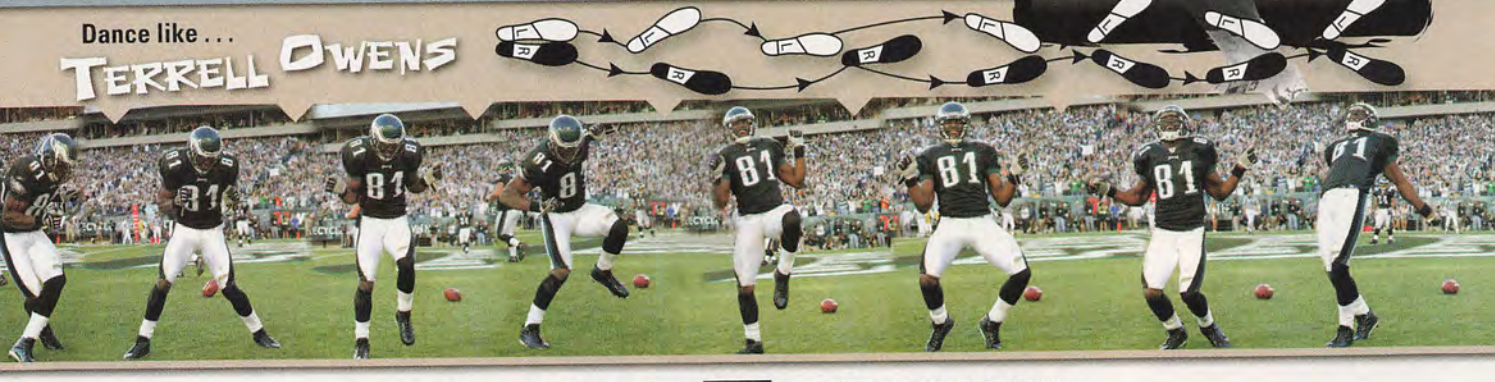
"They wanted us to give them a bright line that says 'what we can do and what we can't do,'" Fisher recalls. "So that's what we did."

> **"What I did was a lot of fun, something spontaneous ... I never could have imagined what it would become. I'd like to be associated with it in a good way, not a negative way."**
>
> ***—Billy "White Shoes" Johnson***

CLOCKWISE: JOE GIBLIN / WIRE IMAGE.COM; RICK STEWART / GETTY IMAGES; AL MESSERSCHMIDT / WIRE IMAGE.COM; SCOTT CUNNINGHAM / GETTY IMAGES; HUNTER MARTIN / WIRE IMAGE.COM (8)

**Dance like . . .**

## TERRELL OWENS



Like all rules, the new celebration guidelines will be open to interpretation. Johnson's bended-knee proposal to a cheerleader would violate the celebration rule if it took place in the end zone, but a player taking a knee for a brief prayer would not.

"We want to eliminate where one man celebrating becomes more than a spontaneous action," says Mike Pereira, the league's director of officiating.

That point arrived officially on Nov. 18, 1973, when Elmo Wright of the Kansas City Chiefs caught a touchdown pass thrown by Len Dawson. Wright ran in place quickly, pumping his arms and knees, and slammed the ball into the ground.

Wright is credited as the first NFL player to celebrate in the end zone, though wide receiver Homer Jones of the New York Giants executed the league's first spike eight years earlier.

Then there was Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, who is to the end-zone celebration what Darryl Dawkins is to the slam dunk. After scoring a touchdown as a rookie with the Houston Oilers in 1974, Johnson performed a "Funky Chicken" dance that seems modest by today's standards.

With legs and knees gyrating, Johnson inspired a generation of end-zone antics. Now a member of the Atlanta Falcons' front office, Johnson marvels at his pioneering role, though he has mixed feelings about it.

"What I did was a lot of fun, something spontaneous," he says. "I never could have imagined what it would become. I'd like to be associated with it in a good way, not a negative way."

Johnson paved the way for running back Ickey Woods, whose injury-shortened career is best remembered for his wacky "Ickey Shuffle" while leading the Cincinnati Bengals to the 1989 Super Bowl; for Oilers wide receiver Ernest Givins and his "Electric Slide"; and the Redskins' "Fun Bunch," a group of wide receivers who gathered in a circle and leaped together for that memorable gang high-five.

The Fun Bunch inspired the NFL to draft an "excessive-celebration" amendment, which outlawed almost everything but a basic spike. The rule was loosened in 1991 to allow for any non-taunting celebration. In 1999, the NFL banned group celebrations.

By then, almost every successful team had a signature move. Jamal Anderson crafted the "Dirty Bird" during the Falcons' surprising 1998 Super Bowl run. There was the "Mile High Salute" popularized by Broncos running back Terrell Davis, the St. Louis Rams' "Bob-n-Weave" and, of course, the Lambeau Leap, in which the Green Bay Packers jump into the home stands to celebrate with their fans.

Back when Redskins wideouts Alvin Garrett, Charlie Brown and the rest of the Fun Bunch were celebrating, ESPN was little more than a network of tractor pulls and Australian-rules football. Now players know that their end-zone choreography will be featured as prominently—if not more so—than the plays that got them there.

It's the NFL equivalent of the slam dunk, a guaranteed "SportsCenter" highlight, regardless of the context in which it's executed or the outcome of the game.

That worries NFL officials, who have heard complaints from youth and high school coaches that such antics place an overemphasis on the individual over team play. There's also the concern that such behavior crosses the line into taunting.

The NFL has acted swiftly in the past against players who mockingly danced over a tackled opponent, made throat-slashing gestures or performed borderline obscene moves, such as the infamous mock mooning of Green Bay fans by Randy Moss.

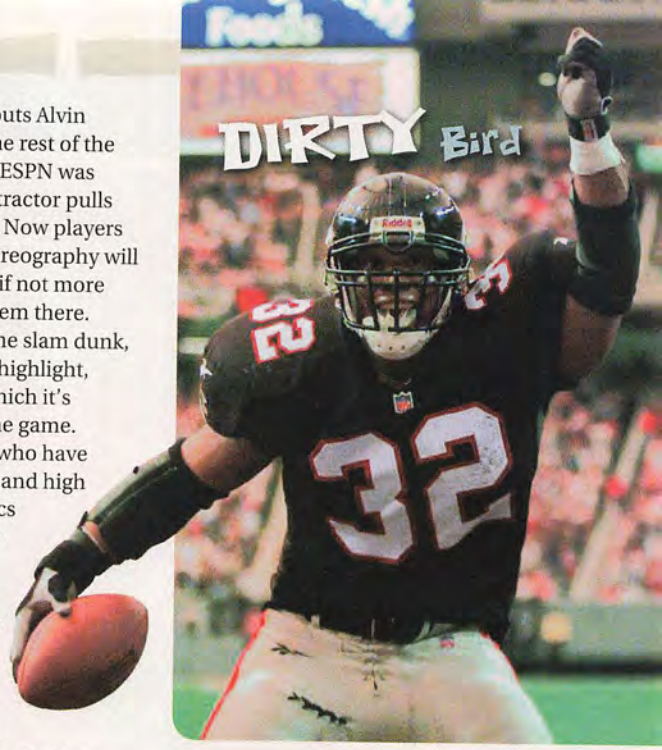
"At some point there has to be a line," McKay says.

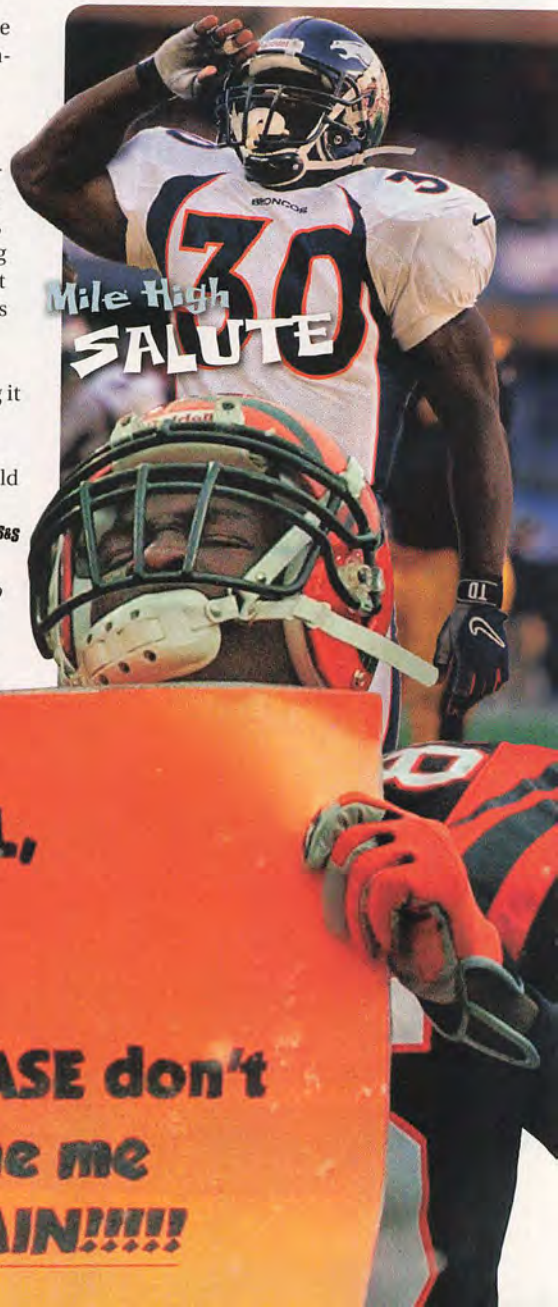
That line no doubt will be open to interpretation this season, perhaps only serving to inspire greater creativity from Johnson, Smith, Owens and the rest of the receiving divas who seemingly put as much thought and planning into their end-zone antics as they do the moves that get them there.

When the rule was announced in March, Johnson shrugged, all but taking it as a challenge.

"Tell the Competition Committee that Chad said you can't cover 85," Johnson told the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, "and there's no way you can stop him from entertaining." S&S

*Pete Williams is a regular contributor to* Street & Smith's *and author of* The Draft: A Year inside the NFL's Search for Talent.

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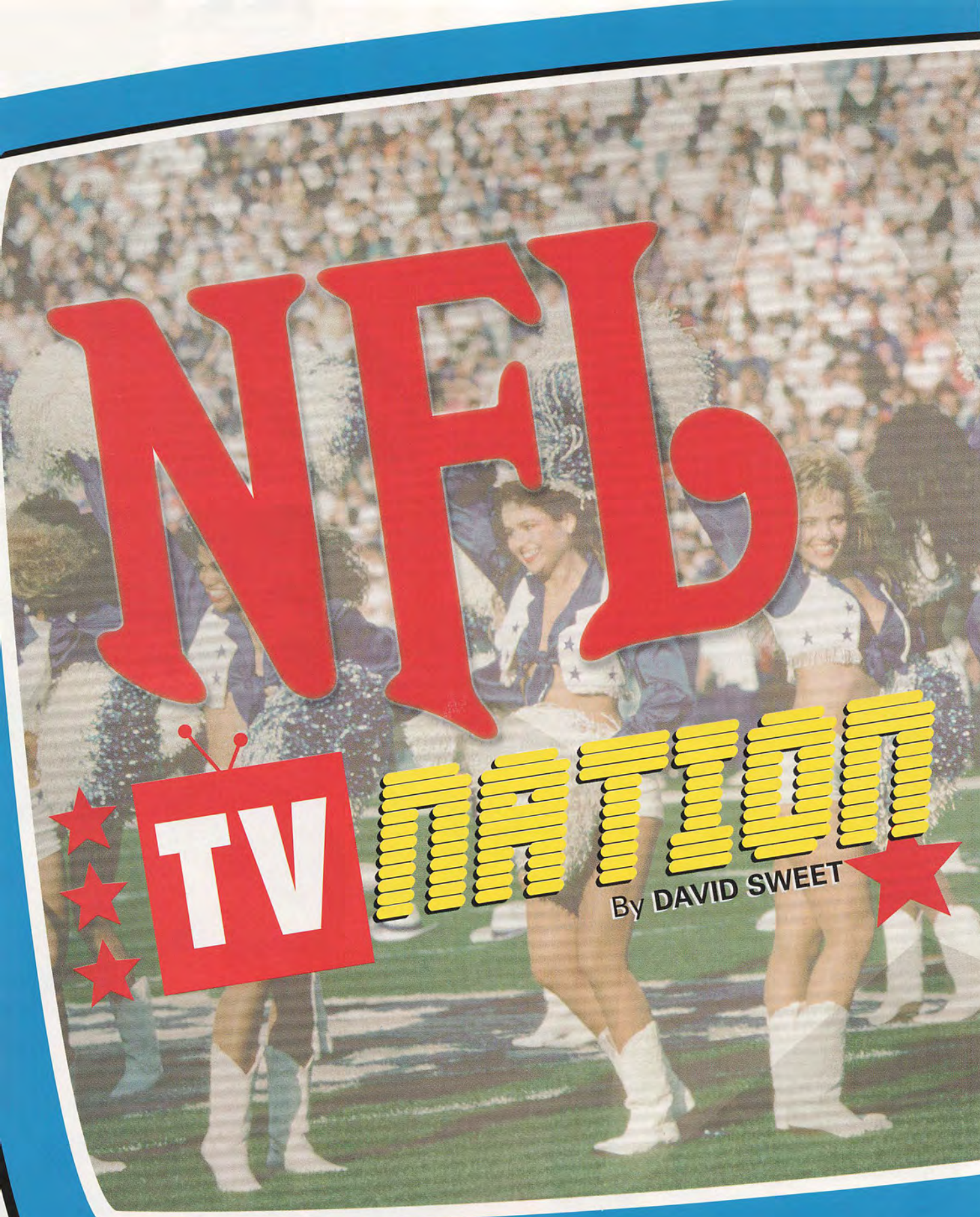
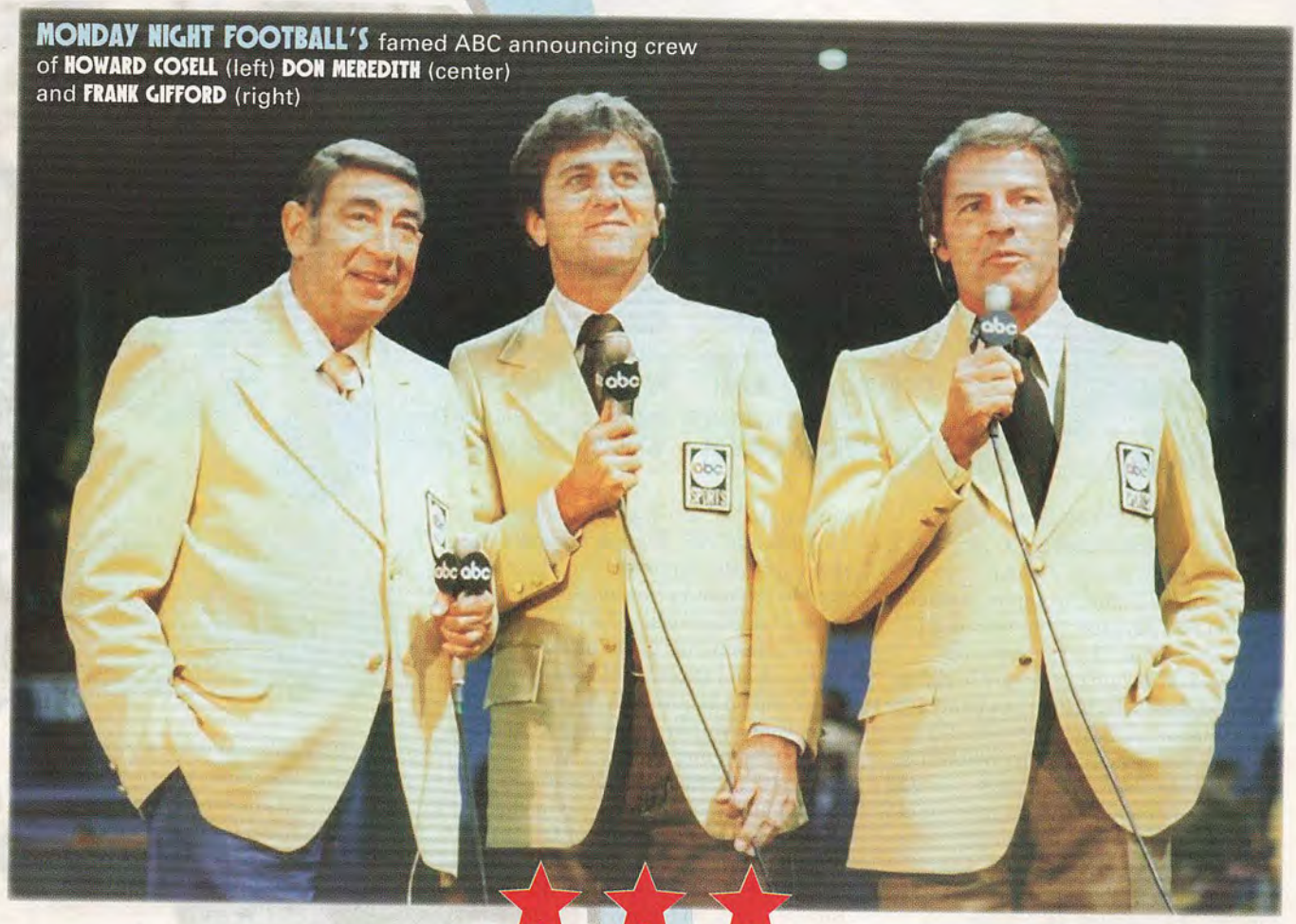


# NFL TV NATION

By DAVID SWEET



**MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL'S** famed ABC announcing crew of **HOWARD COSELL** (left) **DON MEREDITH** (center) and **FRANK GIFFORD** (right)

**With a lucrative new deal in tow, the NFL's ever-growing television tentacles are poised to reach a record number of viewers through all three major networks and its own wild card, NFL Network.**

At the time, it was hard to imagine a more radical change. The National Football League, wedded to games on Sunday afternoons, began playing contests on Monday nights—in front of a prime-time television audience. Three announcers, rather than the traditional two, manned the booth for ABC, whose inclusion among the league's television partners meant the NFL had deals with every national network, save PBS.

The 1970 season was a watershed in the history of the NFL's relationship with television. But even the sight of the bombastic Howard Cosell on the screen back then was not as astounding as what is poised to arrive in fans' homes this September.

For the first time since they debuted, "Monday Night Football" games will be broadcast not by an over-the-air network (ABC) but by cable giant ESPN. And after a lengthy absence, NBC is back with a Sunday night package, while the fledgling NFL Network, run by the league, will broadcast regular-season games for the first time.

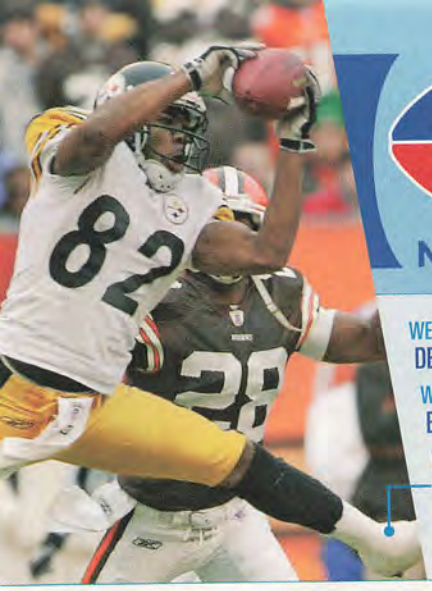
Never before have so many networks shown games. Kickoffs for night games are almost a half-hour earlier than before. And turkey on Thanksgiving Day may go cold, since the inaugural prime-time contest between Denver and Kansas City is scheduled after the two afternoon games.

"This is arguably the biggest changing point in the NFL's TV landscape since 'Monday Night Football' began and the alternating network doubleheader rule on Sunday afternoons began to take shape," says Michael MacCambridge, author of *America's Game: The Epic Story of How Pro Football Captured a Nation.*

The majority of deals were struck in the spring of 2005, when ESPN signed on for eight years—at more than $1 billion per season—and NBC agreed to a six-year pact for about $600 million a year. Though it was the last network to take part in the historic TV covenant, NFL Network is the most intriguing addition of all.

**THIS TV SEASON MARKS NBC'S RETURN TO THE NFL FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE MID-1990S.**

BACKGROUND: JEFF LEWIS / US PRESSWIRE. THIS PAGE (TOP TO BOTTOM): COURTESY ABC SPORTS; DAVE MCNEW / GETTY IMAGES



NFL NETWORK

# 2006 GAME SCHEDULE

WEEK 12: THUR., NOV. 23 AT 8 P.M. ET:
DENVER at KANSAS CITY

WEEK 13: THUR., NOV. 30 AT 8 P.M. ET:
BALTIMORE at CINCINNATI

WEEK 14: THUR., DEC. 7 AT 8 P.M. ET:
CLEVELAND at PITTSBURGH

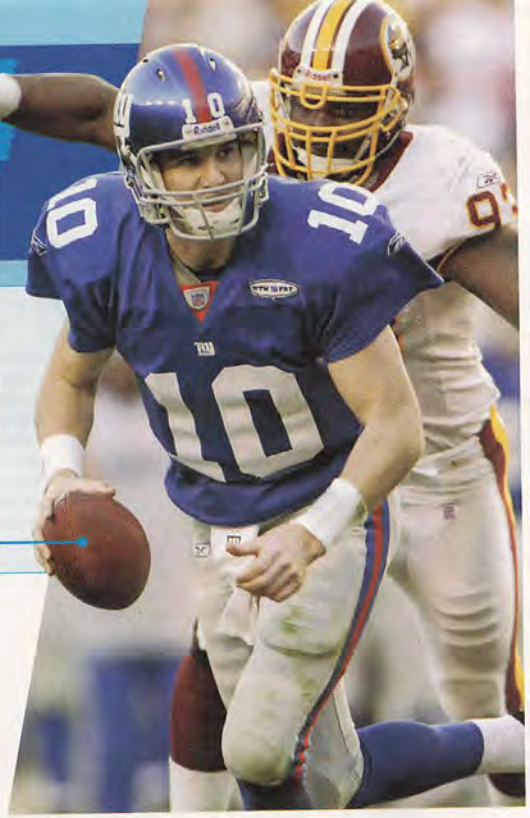
WEEK 15: THUR., DEC. 14 AT 8 P.M. ET:
SAN FRANCISCO at SEATTLE

WEEK 15: SAT., DEC. 16 AT 8 P.M. ET:
DALLAS at ATLANTA

WEEK 16: THUR., DEC. 21 AT 8 P.M. ET:
MINNESOTA at GREEN BAY

WEEK 16: SAT., DEC. 23 AT 8 P.M. ET:
KANSAS CITY at OAKLAND

WEEK 17: SAT., DEC. 30 AT 8 P.M. ET:
N.Y. GIANTS at WASHINGTON



Through the 2011-12 season, NFL Network will broadcast only eight regular-season games annually on Thursday and Saturday nights, but the channel may represent the league's television future. The NFL gave up hundreds of millions in dollars in rights fees and countless viewers to hand over the games to its own three-year-old creation, which counted 36 million U.S. cable subscribers among more than 100 distributors (including satellite's DirecTV and DISH Network) in the spring.

Why? The league can control the presentation of the games, and it can test the viability of distributing content on emerging media, such as iPods and cell phones, without interference from television partners. Furthermore, the network's importance skyrockets to the point that NFL Network—which will also show numerous NFL preseason games and broadcast all NFL Europe contests this year—should be able to at least double the number of homes it's in by the end of this season. NFL Network, which already has cable deals with Comcast and Cox Communications, spent the spring looking to strike pacts with Time Warner Cable and Charter Communications as well.

And NFL Network is not wanting in the publicity department, which should stem concerns about fans being unable to find games. As part of the league's overall agreement with the broadcasters, NFL Network spokesman Seth Palansky says the cable entity will receive about $50 million worth of advertising this season, including promotions during games on FOX, CBS and other networks; mentions on stadium Jumbotrons; and advertisements in game programs. All NFL Network has to pay is production costs.

What can viewers expect in November? Plans include three-hour pregame shows as well as postgame shows lasting at least one hour. Expectations are high.

"The ESPN Sunday night game has always been the best-rated show in cable for that week," Palansky says. "We hope to be in the top five."

As for "Monday Night Football," this will not be your father's version—or even your older brother's. Whereas ABC could only dedicate a three-hour window to the prime-time powerhouse, ESPN will broadcast "SportsCenter" and "Pardon the Interruption," while ESPN2 will show "Cold Pizza" Mondays from the corresponding host city of that week's game. Also in town will be the "Mike and Mike in the Morning" radio show, featuring Mike Golic and Mike Greenberg. Blanket coverage will be provided on ESPN.com, ESPN Mobile and other network platforms each Monday.

"If you want to call it a mini-Super Bowl, that's what you'll get from us," says Norby Williamson, ESPN's executive vice president of studio and remote production. "It [MNF] is an event. We're going to capture the emotion of that."

During the games themselves, Williamson promises different graphics and sounds than what ABC offered, even beyond the new announcing team of Mike Tirico, Joe Theismann and Tony Kornheiser. What's staying the same? Only the traditional "Monday Night Football" music.

**"IF YOU WANT TO CALL IT A MINI-SUPER BOWL, THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL GET FROM US.**
It (MNF) is an event. We're going to capture the emotion of that."
—**Norby Williamson**, ESPN's executive vice president of studio and remote production

TOP (L TO R): HARRY HOW / GETTY IMAGES; GEOFF BURKE / US PRESSWIRE; WILLIAMSON: JEMAL COUNTESS / WIRE IMAGE.COM; FACING PAGE: TOP: PRESTON MACK / ESPN; MICHAELS: KEVORK DJANSEZIAN; MADDEN: JOHN DAVID MERCER; ESPN HQ: JESSICA HILL / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS. DANTE HALL: BRIAN BAHR / GETTY IMAGES

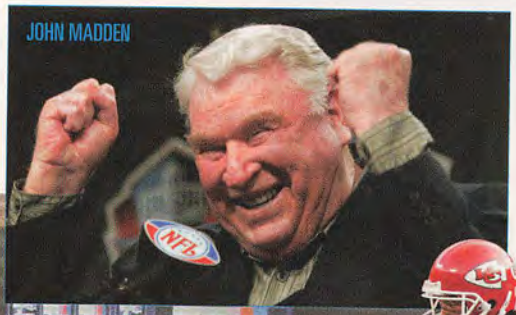
ESPN

# MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

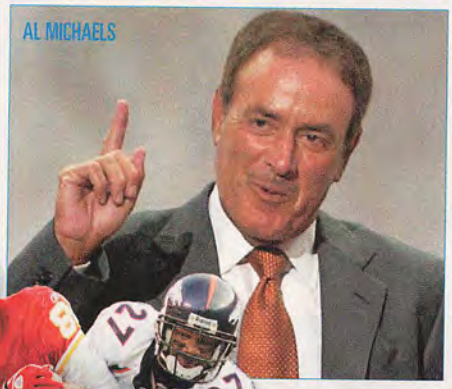
RIGHT: THE NEW 'MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL' CREW OF (L TO R) MICHELE TAFOYA, TONY KORNHEISER, MIKE TIRICO, JOE THEISMANN AND SUZY KOLBER

ESPN will kick off its MNF regular season with a prime-time doubleheader, beginning with Minnesota's visit to Washington, followed by San Diego at Oakland. Though the late game will start at 10:15 p.m. EST, Monday night games on the whole will commence earlier than they did on ABC (at 8:40 p.m. rather than 9:07 p.m.), which Williamson believes will have a positive impact on East Coast ratings.

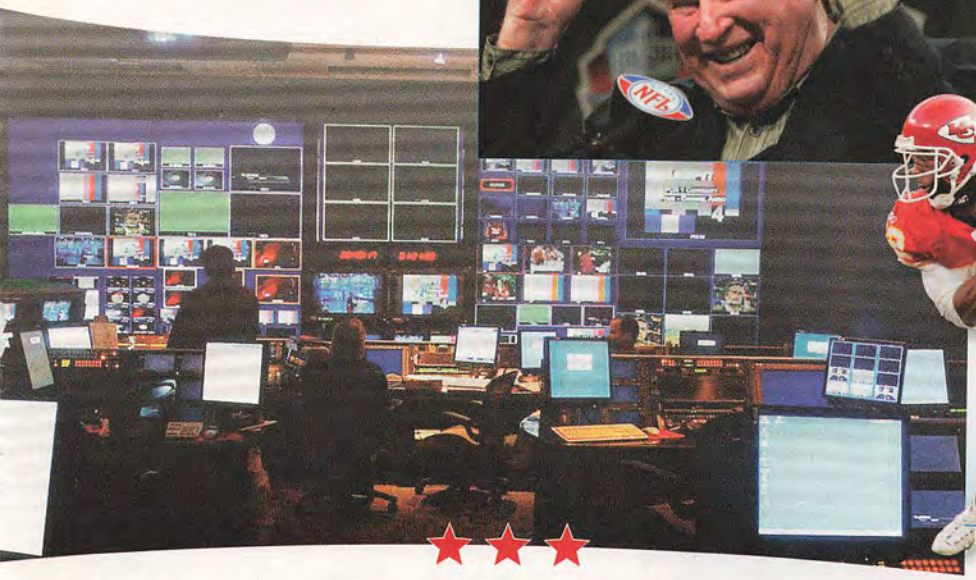
This TV season also marks NBC's return to broadcasting the NFL for the first time since the mid-1990s. The network will air 16 regular-season games on Sunday nights, with each preceded by an hourlong pre-game show. Contests will start at 8:15 p.m., rather than 8:40 p.m. as they did at ESPN. NBC also will broadcast the season-opening Thursday night game each year, along with a handful of playoff matchups and the Super Bowl in 2009 and 2012.

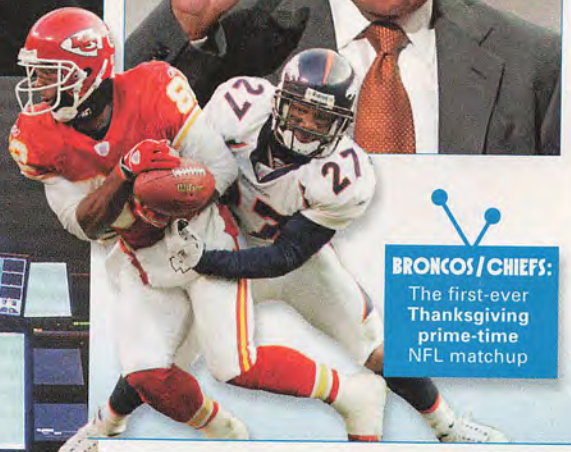


JOHN MADDEN



AL MICHAELS





**BRONCOS/CHIEFS:** The first-ever **Thanksgiving prime-time** NFL matchup

## ESPN WILL KICK OFF ITS SEASON WITH A PRIME-TIME DOUBLEHEADER

Aside from procuring the former MNF broadcasting team of Al Michaels and John Madden, the biggest news for NBC is the ability to use flexible scheduling, which the NFL implemented once it moved the network prime-time package to Sunday nights. For seven of the last eight weeks of the season, NBC can ask for a compelling matchup to air on Sunday nights, and the NFL will make the final decision on whether to grant the request. According to the league, FOX and CBS can protect one game a week for five of the seven flexible-scheduling weeks.

"Our best information shows us that this property will rate higher ... on Sunday nights than it did on Monday nights because you should not have any weak games in the back seven weeks of the season," Dick Ebersol, chairman of NBC Universal Sports & Olympics, told *Street & Smith's Sports Business Daily.*

And though this season promises to usher in a brave new television world, MacCambridge believes it won't compare to the impact of a future move—when NFL Sunday Ticket, now on satellite, is made available on digital cable.

"It's the largest single financial windfall that's left on the table," he says. "There's a whole lot of dislocated Browns, Steelers, Bills, Chiefs, Giants and Packers fans—just for starters—who have been haunting sports bars all over the country since Sunday Ticket started. Not all of those people will opt in, but a lot of them will.

"The ability to watch all of your favorite team's games at home, from anywhere in the country, will be the last significant step in the NFL's television revolution." S&S

*David Sweet is a frequent contributor to* Street & Smith's *publications and is the managing editor of two newspapers in suburban Chicago.*

# Fantasy Report

By **MATT McKENZIE** *Street & Smith's* Staff Writer

**If you're looking for yearlong bragging rights, follow this simple five-step process to a successful fantasy draft and season**

1 | Larry Johnson, RB

2 | LaDainian Tomlinson, RB

3 | Shaun Alexander, RB

It's almost here. After last season, you've either thanked players like Shaun Alexander and Larry Johnson or cursed Daunte Culpepper and Terrell Owens. Withdrawals from checking fantasy football Web sites at the office have been replaced with actual work. You've replayed scenarios over and over in your mind about past waiver-wire pickups and decisions to start certain players over others.

Well, the wait is over. Another fantasy football season will soon be upon us, which also means it's draft time. Whether you get together with a bunch of friends where everyone has their own "war room" or simply do an online draft with strangers, here are five things to keep in mind in order to have a successful season:

## 1. Run, run, run

While a leading running back isn't necessarily key to winning a Super Bowl (see page 36), it is crucial in fantasy football. Alexander, Johnson and LaDainian Tomlinson are three players who likely carried hundreds of people to a fantasy title last season. On the other hand, if you were caught with a No. 1 back who had to platoon (i.e. Marion Barber/Julius Jones of Dallas or Denver's trio of Mike Anderson, Tatum Bell and Ron Dayne), then your team likely suffered some.

The debate of running back versus quarterback as a first-round fantasy pick shouldn't even be up for discussion anymore. In fact, more and more owners are taking running backs with both their first- and second-round picks. Remember, it's much easier for a coach to shuffle in running backs as opposed to quarterbacks. Very rarely do you see two QBs in the same game, except for an injury situation. Quality running backs are going to be around for only so long in fantasy drafts, while some solid quarterbacks will be available in middle rounds.

## 2. The past is the past

Yes, Alexander set the NFL record with 28 touchdowns last year. And Tom Brady threw for a career-high 4,110 yards. Does that mean they're due for repeat statistics? Not necessarily. That isn't to say those two won't still put up solid numbers this season, but it's hard to maintain that top level of success, especially in the NFL.

The same theory goes for players who were on a downslide in 2005. Bills running back Willis McGahee surely angered some fantasy owners with just five touchdowns in a season in which he proclaimed himself "the best back in football." Look for him to bounce back this year. As for Owens, well, the NFL brass can go ahead and etch his name on the league's 2006 award for Comeback Player of the Year.

Just as it's a new season for fantasy football owners, so it is for the league's players. Try to draft at least one player (such as Tomlinson or Peyton Manning) who has been solid over the last few years in fantasy points; but at the same time, don't let a good player's poor performance last season steer you away from picking him up this year.

## 3. Knowledge is power

Fantasy drafts aren't like an NCAA Tournament pool, where you can pick blindly and be correct 50 percent of the time. In the weeks prior to your draft, buy a few magazines and check out some fantasy Web sites. Come to your draft with an NFL schedule, so as to make sure you don't draft numerous players with the same bye weeks.

LEFT: BRYAN YABLONSKY / SPORTSCHROME; RIGHT (TOP TO BOTTOM): NORM HALL; JESSE BEALS / ICON SMI

# Fantasy TOP 100

provided by **footballguys.com**

| | Pos | Name, Team |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | RB | Larry Johnson, KC |
| 2 | RB | LaDainian Tomlinson, SD |
| 3 | RB | Shaun Alexander, SEA |
| 4 | RB | Tiki Barber, NYG |
| 5 | RB | Clinton Portis, WAS |
| 6 | RB | Edgerrin James, ARI |
| 7 | RB | LaMont Jordan, OAK |
| 8 | RB | Cadillac Williams, TB |
| 9 | RB | Domanick Davis, HOU |
| 10 | RB | Steven Jackson, STL |
| 11 | QB | Peyton Manning, IND |
| 12 | WR | Steve Smith, CAR |
| 13 | RB | Rudi Johnson, CIN |
| 14 | RB | Brian Westbrook, PHI |
| 15 | WR | Chad Johnson, CIN |
| 16 | WR | Torry Holt, STL |
| 17 | RB | Ronnie Brown, MIA |
| 18 | RB | Willis McGahee, BUF |
| 19 | WR | Terrell Owens, DAL |
| 20 | RB | Reuben Droughns, CLE |
| 21 | WR | Larry Fitzgerald, ARI |
| 22 | RB | Willie Parker, PIT |
| 23 | WR | Randy Moss, OAK |
| 24 | RB | Warrick Dunn, ATL |
| 25 | TE | Antonio Gates, SD |
| 26 | RB | Thomas Jones, CHI |
| 27 | WR | Marvin Harrison, IND |
| 28 | RB | Jamal Lewis, BAL |
| 29 | WR | Anquan Boldin, ARI |
| 30 | WR | Reggie Wayne, IND |
| 31 | WR | Hines Ward, PIT |
| 32 | WR | Donald Driver, GB |
| 33 | WR | Santana Moss, WAS |
| 34 | WR | Darrell Jackson, SEA |
| 35 | RB | Corey Dillon, NE |
| 36 | RB | Tatum Bell, DEN |
| 37 | TE | Jeremy Shockey, NYG |
| 38 | WR | Chris Chambers, MIA |
| 39 | QB | Tom Brady, NE |
| 40 | RB | Kevin Jones, DET |
| 41 | QB | Matt Hasselbeck, SEA |
| 42 | TE | Tony Gonzalez, KC |
| 43 | WR | Deion Branch, NE |
| 44 | RB | Deuce McAllister, NO |
| 45 | WR | Plaxico Burress, NYG |
| 46 | WR | Javon Walker, DEN |
| 47 | RB | Ahman Green, GB |
| 48 | QB | Marc Bulger, STL |
| 49 | WR | Roy Williams, DET |
| 50 | WR | Andre Johnson, HOU |
| 51 | QB | Eli Manning, NYG |
| 52 | RB | Julius Jones, DAL |
| 53 | QB | Donovan McNabb, PHI |
| 54 | WR | Joey Galloway, TB |
| 55 | RB | DeShaun Foster, CAR |
| 56 | RB | Dominic Rhodes, IND |
| 57 | WR | T.J. Houshmandzadeh, CIN |
| 58 | RB | Chester Taylor, MIN |
| 59 | RB | Chris Brown, TEN |
| 60 | WR | Rod Smith, DEN |
| 61 | WR | Laveranues Coles, NYJ |
| 62 | WR | Lee Evans, BUF |
| 63 | RB | Reggie Bush, NO |
| 64 | QB | Jake Plummer, DEN |
| 65 | WR | Joe Horn, NO |
| 66 | TE | Jason Witten, DAL |
| 67 | WR | Derrick Mason, BAL |
| 68 | QB | Jake Delhomme, CAR |
| 69 | WR | Jerry Porter, OAK |
| 70 | RB | Fred Taylor, JAX |
| 71 | WR | Isaac Bruce, STL |
| 72 | WR | Eddie Kennison, KC |
| 73 | QB | Drew Bledsoe, DAL |
| 74 | WR | Terry Glenn, DAL |
| 75 | RB | Curtis Martin, NYJ |
| 76 | TE | Alge Crumpler, ATL |
| 77 | WR | Jimmy Smith, JAX |
| 78 | QB | Michael Vick, ATL |
| 79 | RB | Kevan Barlow, SF |
| 80 | TE | Todd Heap, BAL |
| 81 | WR | Drew Bennett, TEN |
| 82 | WR | Muhsin Muhammad, CHI |
| 83 | QB | Trent Green, KC |
| 84 | RB | Joseph Addai, IND |
| 85 | WR | Keyshawn Johnson, CAR |
| 86 | QB | Brett Favre, GB |
| 87 | RB | Frank Gore, SF |
| 88 | QB | Aaron Brooks, OAK |
| 89 | WR | Mark Clayton, BAL |
| 90 | TE | Randy McMichael, MIA |
| 91 | WR | Michael Clayton, TB |
| 92 | Def | Chicago Bears |
| 93 | QB | Carson Palmer, CIN |
| 94 | TE | Chris Cooley, WAS |
| 95 | RB | Cedric Benson, CHI |
| 96 | QB | Ben Roethlisberger, PIT |
| 97 | WR | Eric Moulds, HOU |
| 98 | TE | Ben Watson, NE |
| 99 | WR | Joe Jurevicius, CLE |
| 100 | Def | Carolina Panthers |

It's also important to know the free-agent acquisitions and how they affect players. Edgerrin James is set for life after signing a fat contract with Arizona, but his fantasy numbers are likely to decrease in the desert since he no longer has as strong of an offensive line. On the flip side, Chester Taylor is likely to become Minnesota's feature back after playing behind Jamal Lewis in Baltimore.

Finally, don't waste a draft pick on a kicker or defense until the last few rounds. Even though Arizona's Neil Rackers had a record season in 2005, kickers in fantasy are mainly an afterthought compared with skill players—and the same goes for defenses, which hurt owners rather than help them in most cases.

## 4. Have patience

More often than not, fantasy football owners end up drafting players they likely could have gotten two or three rounds later. This mainly applies to the middle portion of the draft. The blueprint of what players you want to draft doesn't always have to go to form. If there's a more talented position player on the board, take him. It's not necessary to fill in your positions one by one (aside from running back). Also, don't be a sheep. Just because two people ahead of you began drafting tight ends, that doesn't mean you have to follow suit.

During the early season, if one of your starters is off to a slow beginning, don't be so quick to pull the trigger on a trade. Last season, Bengals running back Rudi Johnson had only two touchdowns in the first eight games, and then exploded for 10 TDs during the second half of the season. Johnson's QB, Carson Palmer (last year's fantasy breakout star), had more touchdowns (11) in his last five games of 2004 than the previous 12 (7).

## 5. Catch some breaks

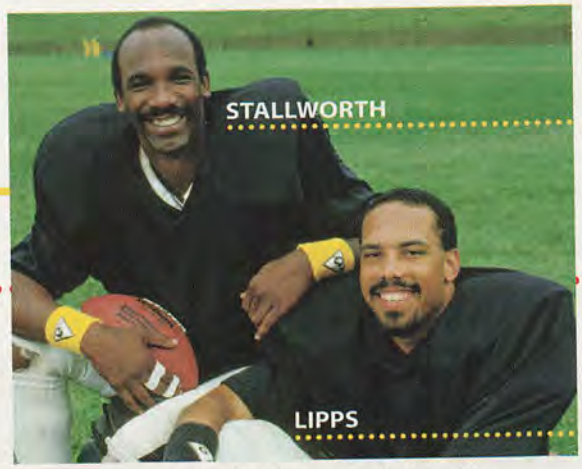
Few can forecast the breakout stars of the upcoming season, so there is a strong element of chance involved in fantasy football. Who could have predicted the unexpected rise of Samkon Gado and Willie Parker? Or the injuries to Culpepper and Donovan McNabb? Or the season-ending suspension of Terrell Owens? OK, maybe the last one, but you get the point. It's very rare for someone to go through an entire fantasy football season and not have one player get injured. Make sure to draft capable and talented backups, especially for running backs and quarterbacks. Keep strong tabs on injury reports and the waiver wire, and hope for the best. As any fantasy football champion will say, there's definitely some luck involved in getting to the top.

Still not sure about your draft? Help is on the way. Pick up the premier issue of *Street & Smith's 2006 Fantasy Football Guide*, available on newsstands and to order by July 11. The publication has everything you'll need to know to prepare for the upcoming fantasy football season. **Call 1-800-380-7404 to reserve your copy.**

(L TO R): BRUCE SCHWARTZMAN; LES BENTLEY; HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

*Street & Smith's* dug deep to find out whatever happened to three compelling offensive players from the 1980s—Louis Lipps, Jim Harbaugh and Ickey Woods. Here are their stories:




## LOUIS LIPPS

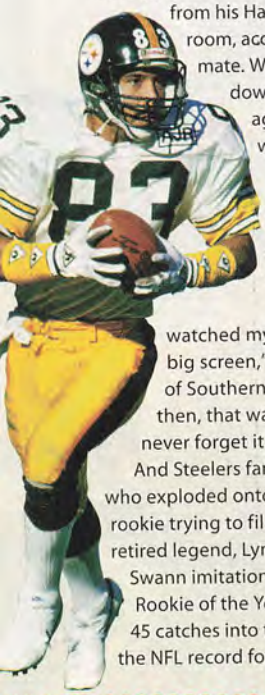
**The receiver who replaced legendary Lynn Swann with the Steelers is back in Pittsburgh—and he says it's like he never left.**

These days, being a first-round pick in the NFL Draft is a lot more interesting than it used to be.

Just ask Louis Lipps.

As an unheralded wide receiver out of Southern Mississippi, Lipps was the 23rd overall selection by the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1984. But he didn't walk across any New York stage to shake hands with the commissioner or get interviewed by the likes of Chris Berman or Suzy Kolber.

No, Lipps watched most of the proceedings from his Hattiesburg, Miss., dorm room, accompanied by his roommate. When he left for a pizza joint downtown without giving his agent a contact number, he was truly on his own.



Lipps would find out his professional football fate like any other NFL fan: by watching a TV at a restaurant/bar.

"I'll never forget when I watched my name get called on that big screen," Lipps recalls. "Coming out of Southern Miss as the 23rd pick? Back then, that was a statement, man. I'll never forget it."

And Steelers fans haven't forgotten Lipps, who exploded onto the scene in 1984 as a rookie trying to fill the shoes of a recently retired legend, Lynn Swann. Lipps did his best Swann imitation, earning AFC Offensive Rookie of the Year after turning nine of his 45 catches into touchdowns and breaking the NFL record for punt-return yardage by a rookie (656). He followed that up with a sophomore performance that included 1,134 receiving yards (19.2-yard average), 12 touchdowns and a second straight trip to the Pro Bowl.

"The fans in Pittsburgh, if you haven't given them anything to be mad at you about, they'll love you to death," says Lipps, who moved back to Pittsburgh from his native New Orleans six years ago to help start a business, Steel City Mortgage Services, with a friend.

During the NFL season, he also co-hosts a Steelers pregame show Sunday mornings on KDKA radio and is a panelist on Fox Sports Net's "Chat Pack" football show in Pittsburgh.

It's a lot of exposure for a 43-year-old bachelor who says that before the fateful draft day 22 years ago he was just another quiet, shy guy from the South.

"Coming to Pittsburgh from Hattiesburg was like night and day," Lipps recalls. "I remember coming here a couple days after I was drafted and people in the airport were already calling me by name. A guy from the Steelers met me and told me that I had a press conference coming up. I said, 'For what and for who?' I entered this room and all these media people were there to hear me speak, which was a little overwhelming. You couldn't fit another person in the room. I was like, 'I'm going to have to get over this shyness.'"

Helping him do that was Swann's longtime receiving partner, John Stallworth, who also came to the Steelers as a quiet, unknown guy from a not-so-well-known Southern university (Alabama A&M). The rookie and the vet hit it off and would room together for a four-year period that Lipps says was a difference-maker in his career.

"I came to the Steelers at the right time, because they still had guys like John and Donnie Shell, Jack Lambert, Larry Brown and Bennie Cunningham," Lipps says. "Stallworth was the nicest guy I had ever met. He took me under his wing, by the hand, and showed me what being a professional football player was all about. He'd show me things like shortcuts to learning the system and how to recognize defenses. If I did something that upset Coach [Chuck] Noll, John would be right there to pat me on the back and pump me up."

Those unselfish lessons from Stallworth obviously took hold, as Lipps spends a lot of his free time these days speaking to youth groups in the Pittsburgh area about staying in school and off of drugs. And he's had a lot more requests since the Steelers won the Super Bowl in February. It's like he never retired and is still part of the team.

When he retired from the game in 1993 after nine NFL seasons, he went back to New Orleans to work with children at a recreation department. Even though it was home, it didn't feel like home.

Pittsburgh, he found, is home.

"When I got back here, it was like I had only been gone for a weekend," Lipps says.

*—Scott Smith*

## JIM HARBAUGH

**Ditka's former whipping boy in Chicago follows his dad's path as a successful I-AA coach in San Diego.**

The coaching blood runs deep in the Harbaugh family.

So when former NFL quarterback Jim Harbaugh became head coach of the University of San Diego in 2004, it was no surprise that he led the Toreros to the Pioneer Football League championship in just two seasons.

After all, his father, Jack, who spent 36 years coaching college football, guided Western Kentucky to a I-AA championship in 2002.

When dad won his national title, Jim was just beginning his coaching career as quality control/quarterbacks coach for the Oakland Raiders in 2002 and 2003. When the USD job opened up, he jumped at the chance to follow in the footsteps of his father at the I-AA level.

"I saw the happiness he got from coaching," Jim recalls. "I admired what he did."

Harbaugh has seemingly always enjoyed the benefit of being around some pretty brilliant coaching minds. His brother-in-law is Tom Crean, the head basketball coach at Marquette, while his brother, John, is the special-teams coordinator for the Philadelphia Eagles.

TOP TO BOTTOM: CHUCK SOLOMON; PETER BROUILLET / WIRE IMAGE.COM; JONATHAN DANIEL / GETTY IMAGES; LENNY IGNELZI / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

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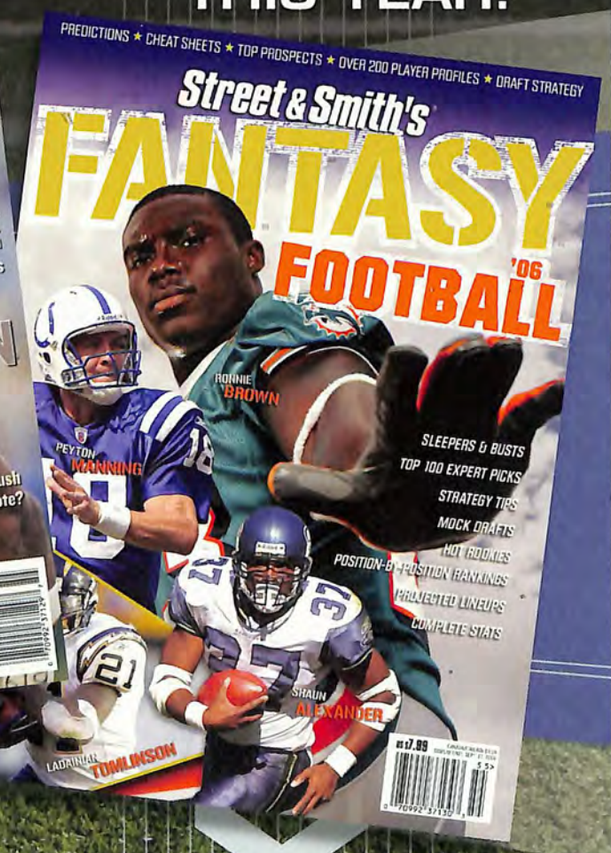


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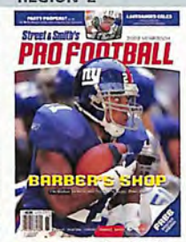


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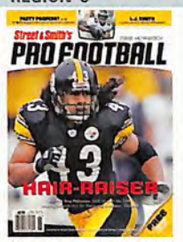


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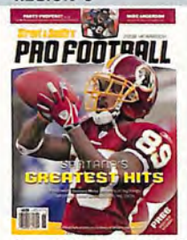


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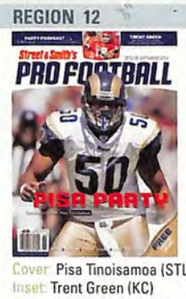


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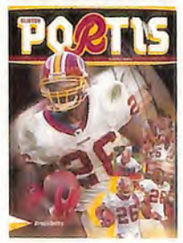

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Such tutelage may be the reason Harbaugh survived the highs and lows of a 15-year career in the NFL.

In 1987, the Chicago Bears selected him out of the University of Michigan with the 26th pick of the first round. He exceeded expectations with the Bears, earning tough love from his coach of six years in Chicago, Mike Ditka, whom Harbaugh describes in one word, "loyal."

Perhaps because he is the son of a coach, Harbaugh responded well to Ditka's in-your-face style of motivation. He became a leader in his seven years with Chicago, setting the franchise record for most completions (1,023) and attempts (1,759), and finishing second all-time in passing yards (11,567).

However, Ditka admonishing Harbaugh on the sidelines after a bad play or interception is still the image many Bears fans have of the two together.

But Harbaugh says he still keeps in touch with Ditka, especially since the movie "Kicking & Screaming," starring Will Ferrell and Ditka hit theaters.

"My kids wanted to meet Ditka," Harbaugh says. "They are huge fans and my daughter [Grace] recites all the lines from the movie."

So, he called Ditka for his children. And, in return, Ditka sent the Harbaugh kids an autographed poster of "Kicking & Screaming" and an autographed copy of his book, *In Life, First You Kick Ass: Reflections on the 1985 Bears and Wisdom from Da Coach.*

A year after Ditka was fired, Harbaugh left Chicago in 1994 for Indianapolis, where he began to get his feet wet in coaching. He became an NCAA-certified, unpaid assistant coach for his dad at Western Kentucky from 1994-2001, because the school didn't have a full allotment of coaches. Harbaugh was one of seven coaches who would go on the road and recruit for the Hilltoppers, which he did after his NFL season ended each year. He recruited 17 players who were a part of the 2002 championship team at WKU.

On the field with the Colts, though, he experienced a career revival. In his second season in Indianapolis, Harbaugh posted career highs in completion percentage (63.7) and touchdowns (17), leading the Colts to the AFC Championship Game for the first time since 1971. He was voted to the Pro Bowl for the first time, received the NFL Comeback Player of the Year and AFC Player of the Year awards and was runner-up for NFL MVP.

However, after the 1997 campaign with the Colts, Harbaugh played just four more seasons in the NFL, hooking on with the Baltimore Ravens in 1998, the San Diego Chargers in 1999-2000 and ending his career with the Carolina Panthers in 2001.

Harbaugh says he tries to use aspects of Ditka's motivational techniques on his players at San Diego, but adds that his overall coaching approach has been influenced more by his father and current Nebraska Coach Bill Callahan, who was Harbaugh's boss in Oakland.

He needs everything he can muster at USD, a private Catholic school that doesn't offer football scholarships. Despite the lack of scholarships, the Toreros finished a school-best 11-1 last season and Harbaugh's goal this fall is to get USD into the postseason for the first time since 1973.

***—Jonathan Woog***

# ICKEY WOODS

**The man who originated one of the NFL's most famous TD dances still has a soft spot for end-zone celebrations—even if the league doesn't anymore.**

Before Chad Johnson's "Riverdance" or the "Lambeau Leap," there was a touchdown-celebration routine created in 1988 by a wide-eyed Cincinnati Bengals rookie fullback out of UNLV.

It wasn't a flashy dance: two steps to the left, two steps to the right, two more back to the left, three hops and a spike, then a twirl of the index finger above the head. The "Ickey Shuffle" has lived on, thanks to Elbert "Ickey" Woods.

"It was something fun," recalls Woods, now 40 and living in Cincinnati, where he serves as head coach of a women's professional football team. "I created it for the fans at the 'Jungle' [old Riverfront Stadium] to keep them involved. To me, the game is about the fans, because they pay the salaries."

Woods, a second-round pick by the Bengals, immediately made his presence known his first season. He rushed for 1,066 yards and 15 touchdowns, leading the league in yards per carry (5.3).

But it was his intriguing TD dance that captivated a nation, spawning songs and merchandise and numerous commercial appearances by Woods. The Shuffle even had crossover appeal, as Darrell Waltrip performed it after winning the 1989 Daytona 500, capped by the NASCAR legend spiking his helmet on the track.

Woods and the Bengals won the AFC Central that special season, and breezed through the playoffs to the franchise's second-ever Super Bowl appearance. Cincinnati lost to San Francisco 20-16 in Super Bowl XXIII despite Woods' team-high 79 yards rushing.

"It was something I'd always dreamed of and was able to fulfill," says Woods of the Super Bowl season. "We had a bunch of guys that played well together and we really meshed together, because in training camp, [then-Bengals Coach] Sam [Wyche] took a white guy and roomed him with a black guy, or an offensive player with a defensive player. It was something fun to be a part of."

However, the good times in the NFL didn't last long for Woods, who tore his left anterior cruciate ligament in just the second game of the 1989 season. He missed 13 months and, by the time Woods was healthy again, James Brooks had taken over the starter's role. In 1991, Woods injured his right knee during training camp, had to sit out another seven games, and was released by Cincinnati the following May.

His career was suddenly over in four years at age 26.

"It was a shock, but life goes on," Woods says. "No matter what happens, life continues. You can't sit back and harp on the past. I had a wife and a family to provide for, so I had to make a living for a family."

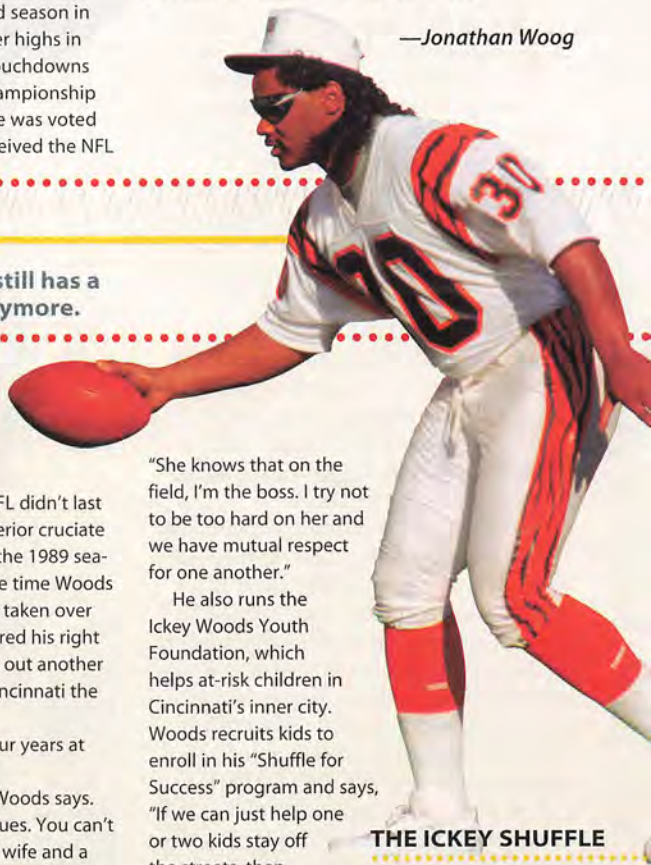
Thrust into the working world, Woods says he wasn't too proud to do certain jobs, including selling frozen meat and seafood door-to-door out of his car for Buckeye Foods.

"It wasn't tough at all," he says. "You do what you have to do. I didn't care what people thought about me. The only person that mattered to me was me. If people looked down on me for what I did, then they're the ones sick in the head."

Woods was able to get back on his feet and in 2005 became the first head coach of the Cincinnati Sizzle, a National Women's Football Association team. His wife, Chandra, plays tight end and offensive line for the squad, and is also a co-owner.

"We don't have too many spats," Woods says about the relationship between coach and player. "She knows that on the field, I'm the boss. I try not to be too hard on her and we have mutual respect for one another."

He also runs the Ickey Woods Youth Foundation, which helps at-risk children in Cincinnati's inner city. Woods recruits kids to enroll in his "Shuffle for Success" program and says, "If we can just help one or two kids stay off the streets, then we're doing our part."



THE ICKEY SHUFFLE

To help the foundation, Woods helps run three concession stands at Paul Brown Stadium during every Bengals home game—and has been known to break out the Ickey Shuffle there on game days.

As for the NFL's latest crackdown on end-zone celebrations, Woods says the paying audience will be the real losers.

"Pulling out a cell phone or a Sharpie is getting into more of a 'me-me' type of thing," Woods says. "But the things that Chad Johnson and Steve Smith do, it's for the fans so they can be entertained. Chad was actually going to break out [the Ickey Shuffle] last year in the playoffs, but unfortunately he didn't score."

***—Matt McKenzie***

US PRESSWIRE

# BACK TO THE FUTURE

**Looking for clues to how the new NFL season will turn out, we fed all 32 teams into our *Street & Smith's* computer and came up with their 'mirror images' among the 750 teams that played between 1974 and 2000.**

**BY G. SCOTT THOMAS**

In the NFL, there are two ways to forecast upcoming seasons. One is to study each team's schedule, pick through its roster, rehash its draft and ponder its imponderables.

The other is to look at history.

While most people do the former, we've done the latter, using a computer program that matches each current team with its "mirror images" from the past three decades.

*Street & Smith's* has compared each franchise's 2001-05 performances against the historical records of 750 teams that played between 1974 and 2000, looking for parallels in win-loss records, offensive firepower, defensive strength and average margins of victory (or defeat).

Our system has linked each current team with its closest matches from the past—its "twins," if you will. We then looked at what happened to those mirror images in subsequent years, using that information to predict the likelihood that each present-day squad will improve on its 2005 record in 2006—and possible playoff probability.

Last year's Indianapolis Colts, for example, were most like the 1998 Broncos, according to our computer. That isn't such good news. Denver slumped in the 1999 season, its first year without John Elway, missing the playoffs with a 6-10 mark.

Better tidings come from the runner-up on Indianapolis' list, the 1994 Cowboys, who won the Super Bowl in 1995. The Colts' next three matches—the 1997 Packers, 1978 Cowboys and 1995 Cowboys—also were playoff teams the following season.

The computer, in fact, has identified 42 close matches between the 2005 Colts and teams from the past. Thirty-two made the playoffs the next year, giving the Colts a 76.2-percent probability of doing the same in 2006. It will be tougher, however, for Indianapolis to improve on its 14-2 record. Only seven teams from the Colts' pool, or 16.7 percent, increased their win totals in the next season.

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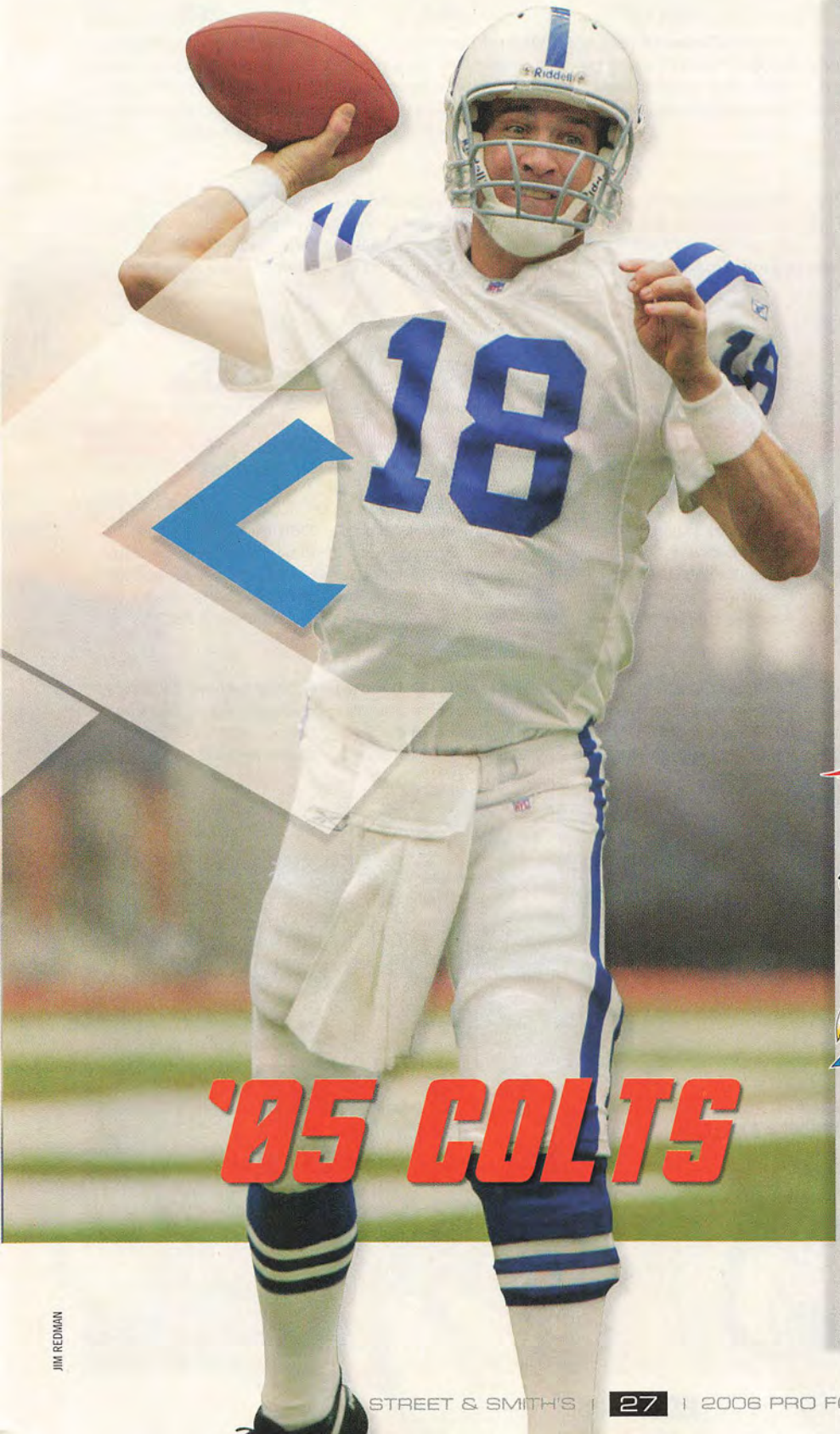
PEYTON MANNING



# '05 COLTS

JIM REDMAN

*Here's a quick look at what history suggests might happen in 2006:*

## MAKING THE PLAYOFFS

76.2% 72% 67%

The Colts, with their odds of 76.2 percent, have the best chance of making the playoffs. They're followed by Carolina (72 percent) and Pittsburgh (67 percent).

12% 20%

Don't print any playoff tickets in New Orleans, where the probability of making the postseason is just 12 percent. San Francisco comes next-to-last at 20 percent.

## IMPROVING

There's nowhere to go but up in Houston, where the Texans have an 80-percent chance of improving on last year's total of two wins.

80%

## PEAKED

Seattle, on the other hand, has peaked. The computer places its chances of getting better this year at a mere 9 percent.

9%

## AFC'S PLAYOFF TEAMS

| | |
|---|---|
| New England | Pittsburgh |
| Indianapolis | Denver |
| Jacksonville | San Diego |

## NFC'S PLAYOFF TEAMS

| | |
|---|---|
| Washington | Minnesota |
| Carolina | Seattle |
| Dallas | Philadelphia |

*Here's our division-by-division rundown, giving the predicted order of finish this season. Each team is followed by its odds of improving on 2005's win total, its odds of making the playoffs, and capsule looks at what happened to its two closest mirror images in their following seasons.*

## AFC EAST

| Team (2005 record) | New England Patriots (10-6) | Miami Dolphins (9-7) | New York Jets (4-12) | Buffalo Bills (5-11) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Projected 2006 finish | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Odds of improving in 2006 | 40% | 46% | 69% | 68% |
| Odds of making playoffs in 2006 | 52% | 41% | 36% | 28% |
| No. 1 mirror image of 2005 team | **1980 Pittsburgh Steelers** (9-7): Continued their slump in 1981, proving that the Super Bowl dynasty of the 1970s was over. Dropped to 8-8, their worst record in a decade. | **1990 Seattle Seahawks** (9-7): Slumped back under .500 in 1991, going 7-9 on the year. Three more losing seasons followed, with the worst being 2-14 in 1992. | **1984 Detroit Lions** (4-11-1): Rebounded to 7-9 in 1985, but then reversed the situation afterwards. Endured five more losing seasons before taking divisional title in 1991. | **1977 San Francisco 49ers** (5-9): Things soon got worse. Slumped to successive 2-14 seasons in 1978 and 1979. Swift turnaround subsequently led to Super Bowl title two years later. |
| No. 2 mirror image of 2005 team | **1977 Pittsburgh Steelers** (9-5): Came back in 1978 to post a 14-2 mark and win their third Super Bowl in five years. Won another title in 1979. | **1983 Denver Broncos** (9-7): Glory days were ahead. Soared to divisional crown at 13-3 in 1984. Won at least 10 games in three subsequent seasons. | **1982 Denver Broncos** (2-7): Disastrous strike season in 1982 proved to be an anomaly. Qualified for playoffs in 1983 with a 9-7 mark, then jumped to 13-3 the year after. | **2000 Seattle Seahawks** (6-10): Waffled during their next two seasons. Climbed up to 9-7 in 2001, then slipped back below .500 to 7-9 the following year. |

## AFC NORTH

| Team (2005 record) | Pittsburgh Steelers (11-5) | Cincinnati Bengals (11-5) | Baltimore Ravens (6-10) | Cleveland Browns (6-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Projected 2006 finish | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Odds of improving in 2006 | 29% | 20% | 60% | 57% |
| Odds of making playoffs in 2006 | 67% | 52% | 34% | 33% |
| No. 1 mirror image of 2005 team | **1974 Minnesota Vikings** (10-4): Winning didn't stop for two more years. The team was 12-2 in 1975 and 11-2-1 in 1976, qualifying for Super Bowl in the latter instance. | **1978 San Diego Chargers** (9-7): Improved drastically in 1979, winning divisional title with a 12-4 record. Followed up with 21 victories (11 and 10, respectively) in the next two seasons. | **1981 Chicago Bears** (6-10): Stumbled in strike year of 1982, going 3-6. But steady improvement after that led to an impressive 15-1 record and Super Bowl title in 1985. | **1980 Cincinnati Bengals** (6-10): The following season brought instant success. Jumped to 12-4 and made Super Bowl in 1981. They were nearly as good (7-2) in strike year of 1982. |
| No. 2 mirror image of 2005 team | **1974 Los Angeles Rams** (10-4): Good times kept rolling. Shot up to 12-2 in 1975, then posted at least 10 wins in four of five subsequent seasons, winning one NFC title. | **1988 Houston Oilers** (10-6): Couldn't get over the hump. Dropped to consecutive 9-7 seasons in 1989 and 1990. Won wild-card berth each year, but lost both playoff games. | **2000 Dallas Cowboys** (5-11): Next two years brought more of the same, with identical 5-11 marks. Soared to 10-6 in 2003, then fell to familiar territory (6-10) in 2004. | **1975 New York Giants** (5-9): Gloomy news continued for years. Fell to 3-11 in 1976, and suffered six losing seasons in the next seven years. |

(L TO R): ROB TRINGALI / SPORTSCHROME; GETTY IMAGES

## AFC SOUTH

| Team (2005 record) | Indianapolis Colts (14-2) | Jacksonville Jaguars (12-4) | Houston Texans (2-14) | Tennessee Titans (4-12) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Projected 2006 finish | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Odds of improving in 2006 | 17% | 22% | 80% | 71% |
| Odds of making playoffs in 2006 | 76% | 64% | 25% | 23% |
| No. 1 mirror image of 2005 team | **1998 Denver Broncos** (14-2): Defending Super Bowl champs slumped badly in 1999, falling to 6-10. Rebounded with an11-5 performance in 2000. | **1986 Cleveland Browns** (12-4): Next three seasons brought 29 wins, two divisional titles and plenty of playoff heartbreak. Then the bottom fell out in 1990 at 3-13. | **1999 New Orleans Saints** (3-13): Got better in a hurry in 2000, improving by seven wins to 10-6. But prosperity didn't last, as they slipped back to 7-9 the next year. | **1991 Los Angeles Rams** (3-13): The bad times stuck around for nearly a decade. Posted a 6-10 record in 1992, and then went a combined 31-65 in the following six years. |
| No. 2 mirror image of 2005 team | **1994 Dallas Cowboys** (12-4): Posted an identical 12-4 mark in 1995, with the bonus of a Super Bowl title, their third in four seasons; 10-6 in 1996. | **1985 New York Giants** (10-6): Everything came together in 1986, with a 14-2 record and a Super Bowl championship. A second Super Bowl win followed in 1990. | **2000 San Diego Chargers** (1-15): Had nowhere to go but up, and that's what they did. Went 5-11 in 2001 and 8-8 in 2002. Won a divisional championship by 2004. | **1975 Cleveland Browns** (3-11): Became instantly respectable in 1976, going 9-5. Danced over and under the .500 line throughout the following decade. |

## AFC WEST

| Team (2005 record) | Denver Broncos (13-3) | San Diego Chargers (9-7) | Kansas City Chiefs (10-6) | Oakland Raiders (4-12) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Projected 2006 finish | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Odds of improving in 2006 | 19% | 41% | 30% | 52% |
| Odds of making playoffs in 2006 | 63% | 62% | 58% | 22% |
| No. 1 mirror image of 2005 team | **1993 Houston Oilers** (12-4): Followed up on 1993 divisional title by dropping in the tank. Went 2-14 in 1994, marking one of the worst one-season turnarounds in NFL history. | **2000 Indianapolis Colts** (10-6): Slipped temporarily to 6-10 in 2001. But they then became one of the NFL's best teams, winning 48 games from 2002 through 2005. | **1989 Washington Redskins** (10-6): Built momentum during the next two years. Another 10-6 record came in 1990, followed by a 14-2 season and Super Bowl championship in 1991. | **1978 Buffalo Bills** (5-11): Climbed back toward respectability with a 7-9 mark in 1979. Their jump in 1980 was even more impressive, with an 11-5 record and a divisional championship. |
| No. 2 mirror image of 2005 team | **1995 Green Bay Packers** (11-5): The best was yet to come. Won 26 of 32 regular-season games in 1996 and 1997, going to the Super Bowl both years and winning one title. | **1977 New England Patriots** (9-5): Went 11-5 in 1978, returning to the playoffs after a one-year absence. Stayed above .500 for the next two years, going 9-7 and 10-6. | **1986 Seattle Seahawks** (10-6): Missed the playoffs with 10 wins in 1986, but qualified the next two years with nine victories each time. They then slipped to 7-9 in 1989. | **1992 Los Angeles Rams** (6-10): Things got progressively worse during the team's final two seasons in L.A. They won just five games in 1993, then only four in 1994. |

(L TO R): DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS; KEVIN REECE / WIRE IMAGE.COM

## NFC EAST

| Team (2005 record) | Washington Redskins (10-6) | Dallas Cowboys (9-7) | Philadelphia Eagles (6-10) | New York Giants (11-5) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Projected 2006 finish | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Odds of improving in 2006 | 48% | 37% | 59% | 24% |
| Odds of making playoffs in 2006 | 58% | 54% | 52% | 50% |
| No. 1 mirror image of 2005 team | **1978 Philadelphia Eagles** (9-7): A boom period followed, as they soared to 11-5 in 1979, then 12-4 and 10-6 the next two years. Won the 1980 NFC title, but lost the Super Bowl. | **1981 Tampa Bay Buccaneers** (9-7): Went only 5-4 in 1982, which was good enough for the playoffs in that strike year. But 2-14 in 1983 wasn't good enough for anything. | **1989 Chicago Bears** (6-10): Snapped back quickly, winning their division in 1990 with an 11-5 mark. Put up the same record in 1991, then plummeted to 5-11 a year later. | **1984 Denver Broncos** (13-3): The following period was one of slow, steady decline. Their record fell to 11-5 in 1985 and 1986, then 10-4-1 and 8-8 in the two seasons after that. |
| No. 2 mirror image of 2005 team | **1993 Green Bay Packers** (9-7): Went 9-7 in 1994 for the third straight year, then shifted into overdrive. Posted a combined mark of 48-16 from 1995 through 1998. | **1983 Denver Broncos** (9-7): Good fortune was starting to smile, as they won a divisional title in 1984 with a record of 13-3. Had at least 10 victories in each of the next three years. | **1994 Buffalo Bills** (7-9): Recovered from their 1994 hangover by going 10-6 in both 1995 and 1996. But then came another bad slip in 1997 to 6-10. | **1982 Green Bay Packers** (5-3-1): Entered a phase of remarkable consistency, going 8-8 in 1983, 1984 and 1985. But the next three years (1986-88) brought losing records. |

## NFC NORTH

| Team (2005 record) | Minnesota Vikings (9-7) | Chicago Bears (11-5) | Green Bay Packers (4-12) | Detroit Lions (5-11) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Projected 2006 finish | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Odds of improving in 2006 | 43% | 33% | 61% | 59% |
| Odds of making playoffs in 2006 | 50% | 50% | 43% | 24% |
| No. 1 mirror image of 2005 team | **1975 Denver Broncos** (6-8): A quick drive to improvement began in 1976, with an upswing to 9-5. The AFC title came the following year after a 12-2 regular-season performance. | **1977 Atlanta Falcons** (7-7): Secured the first playoff berth in their history with a 9-7 season in 1978. Slipped to 6-10 the next year, then rebounded strongly to 12-4 in 1980. | **1978 Cincinnati Bengals** (4-12): The next two years brought similar showings of 4-12 in 1979 and 6-10 in 1980. They followed that with a 12-4 mark in 1981 and a Super Bowl berth. | **2000 Chicago Bears** (5-11): Endured a bumpy ride in the following half-decade. High points included a 13-3 mark in 2001 and 11-5 in 2005. The low was 4-12 in 2002. |
| No. 2 mirror image of 2005 team | **1979 Cleveland Browns** (9-7): Improved by two wins in 1980 to 11-5, good enough for a divisional championship. But they stumbled badly to 5-11 in the 1981 season. | **1997 New York Giants** (10-5-1): The promise of the 1997 season would go unfulfilled. Subsequent years brought a slow drop to records of 8-8 (1998) and 7-9 (1999). | **1981 New England Patriots** (2-14): Turned themselves around with a 5-4 performance in the 1982 strike year. Qualified for the Super Bowl just three seasons later. | **1977 New York Giants** (5-9): A dull sameness marked the years that followed, beginning with identical 6-10 records in 1978 and 1979. Then came a dismal 4-12 season in 1980. |

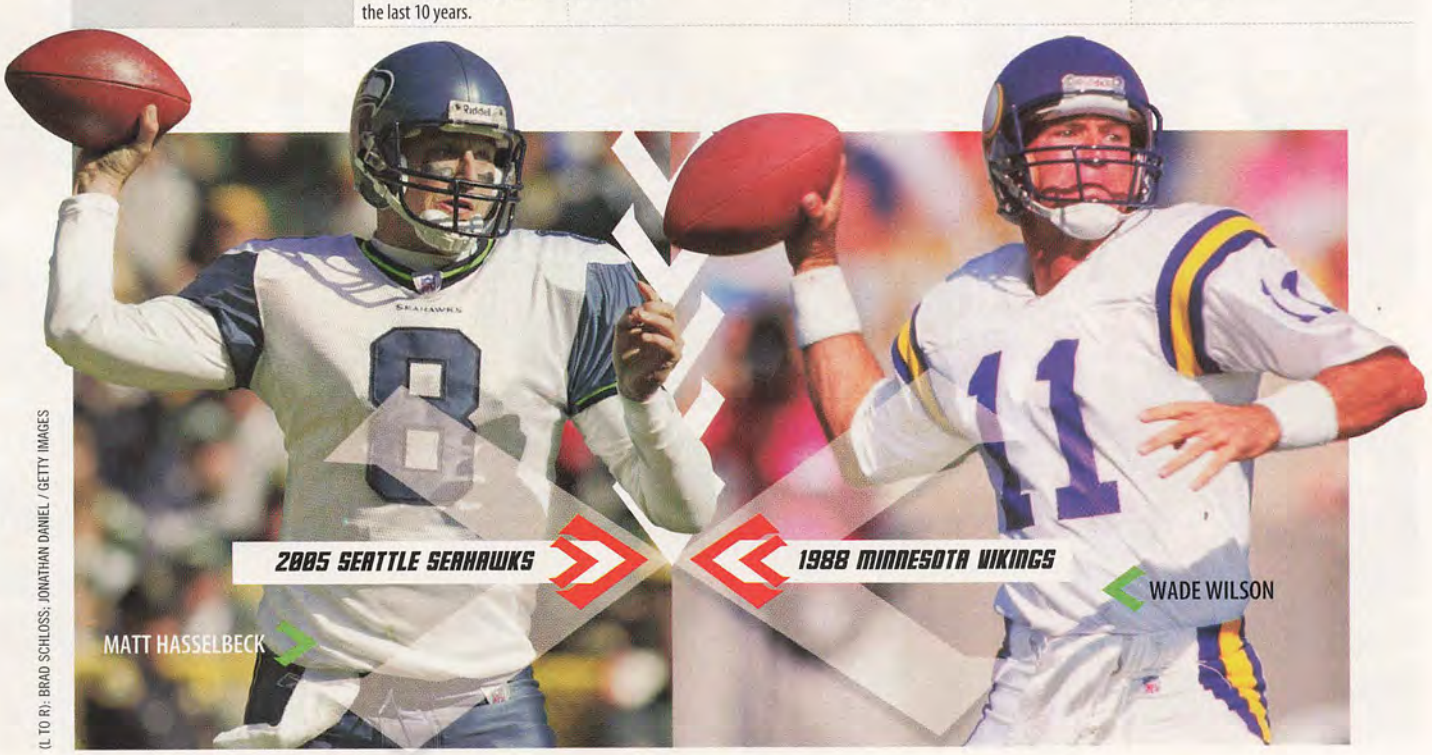
(L TO R): DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS; FOCUS ON SPORTS/ GETTY IMAGES

## NFC SOUTH

| Team (2005 record) | Carolina Panthers (11-5) | Atlanta Falcons (8-8) | Tampa Bay Buccaneers (11-5) | New Orleans Saints (3-13) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Projected 2006 finish | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Odds of improving in 2006 | 28% | 50% | 29% | 71% |
| Odds of making playoffs in 2006 | 72% | 43% | 42% | 12% |
| No. 1 mirror image of 2005 team | **1975 Cincinnati Bengals** (11-3): It was essentially more of the same in 1976, with a mark of 10-4. But a tailspin came later that brought 4-12 records in both 1978 and 1979. | **1994 Detroit Lions** (9-7): Ticked up a notch in 1995, winning 10 games and grabbing a wild-card berth in the playoffs. But rising expectations were dashed by a fall to 5-11 in 1996. | **2000 Pittsburgh Steelers** (9-7): Joined the NFL's elite in 2001, going 13-3. They have been strong ever since (except 6-10 in 2003), including last year's Super Bowl title. | **1997 San Diego Chargers** (4-12): Not much changed in the short run. Went 5-11 in 1998 and managed to crawl up to .500 the next year, but then bombed (1-15) in 2000. |
| No. 2 mirror image of 2005 team | **1994 Cleveland Browns** (11-5): Reversed their record in 1995, going 5-11 amidst the turmoil of the team's announced move to Baltimore. As the Ravens, they fell to 4-12 a year later. | **2000 Detroit Lions** (9-7): Since that year, they haven't been above .500. The cold streak began with a dismal 2-14 record in 2001, and they were 19-45 the next four years. | **1981 Denver Broncos** (10-6): Slipped badly in the strike year of 1982, winning only two games. But they soon regained their poise, posting a 13-3 mark in 1984. | **1988 Dallas Cowboys** (3-13): The worst was yet to come, as they fell to 1-15 in 1989. But recovery was swift, with the team yielding Super Bowl titles in 1992 and 1993. |

## NFC WEST

| Team (2005 record) | Seattle Seahawks (13-3) | St. Louis Rams (6-10) | Arizona Cardinals (5-11) | San Francisco 49ers (4-12) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Projected 2006 finish | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Odds of improving in 2006 | 9% | 54% | 57% | 67% |
| Odds of making playoffs in 2006 | 65% | 35% | 29% | 20% |
| No. 1 mirror image of 2005 team | **1988 Minnesota Vikings** (11-5): It was another glorious season in 1989, with a 10-6 mark and a divisional title. But that was it, as the numbers flipped to a dismal 6-10 a year later. | **1982 Los Angeles Rams** (2-7): A climb to 9-7 in 1983 heralded several years of prosperity, as the Rams won at least 10 games in each of the five seasons between 1984 and 1989, taking one divisional title. | **1988 Tampa Bay Buccaneers** (5-11): Stayed on course with another 5-11 record in 1989. Lost at least 10 games every year through 1994, and didn't climb above .500 until 1997. | **1977 Buffalo Bills** (3-11): Three years of improvement followed. Win totals climbed from five in 1978 to seven in 1979 and 11 in 1980. The latter brought a divisional crown. |
| No. 2 mirror image of 2005 team | **1995 Detroit Lions** (10-6): Momentum slipped away rapidly. They deteriorated to 5-11 in 1996 and have posted only two winning seasons in the last 10 years. | **1987 New York Jets** (6-9): A climb to 8-7-1 in 1988 seemed to offer reason for hope, but it was misplaced. The team wouldn't top .500 again until going 9-7 in 1997. | **2000 Chicago Bears** (5-11): Endured a bumpy ride in the following half-decade. High points included a 13-3 mark in 2001 and 11-5 in 2005. The low was 4-12 in 2002. | **1983 Houston Oilers** (2-14): Things got better, though it took some time. They edged up to 3-13 in 1984, then 5-11 the next two years. A playoff berth finally came in 1987. |



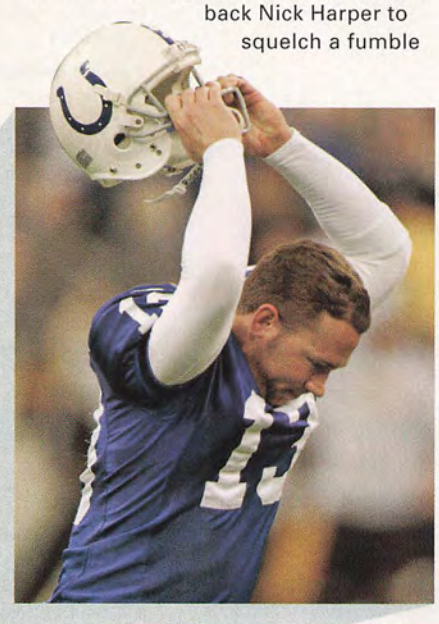

(L TO R): BRAD SCHLOSS; JONATHAN DANIEL / GETTY IMAGES

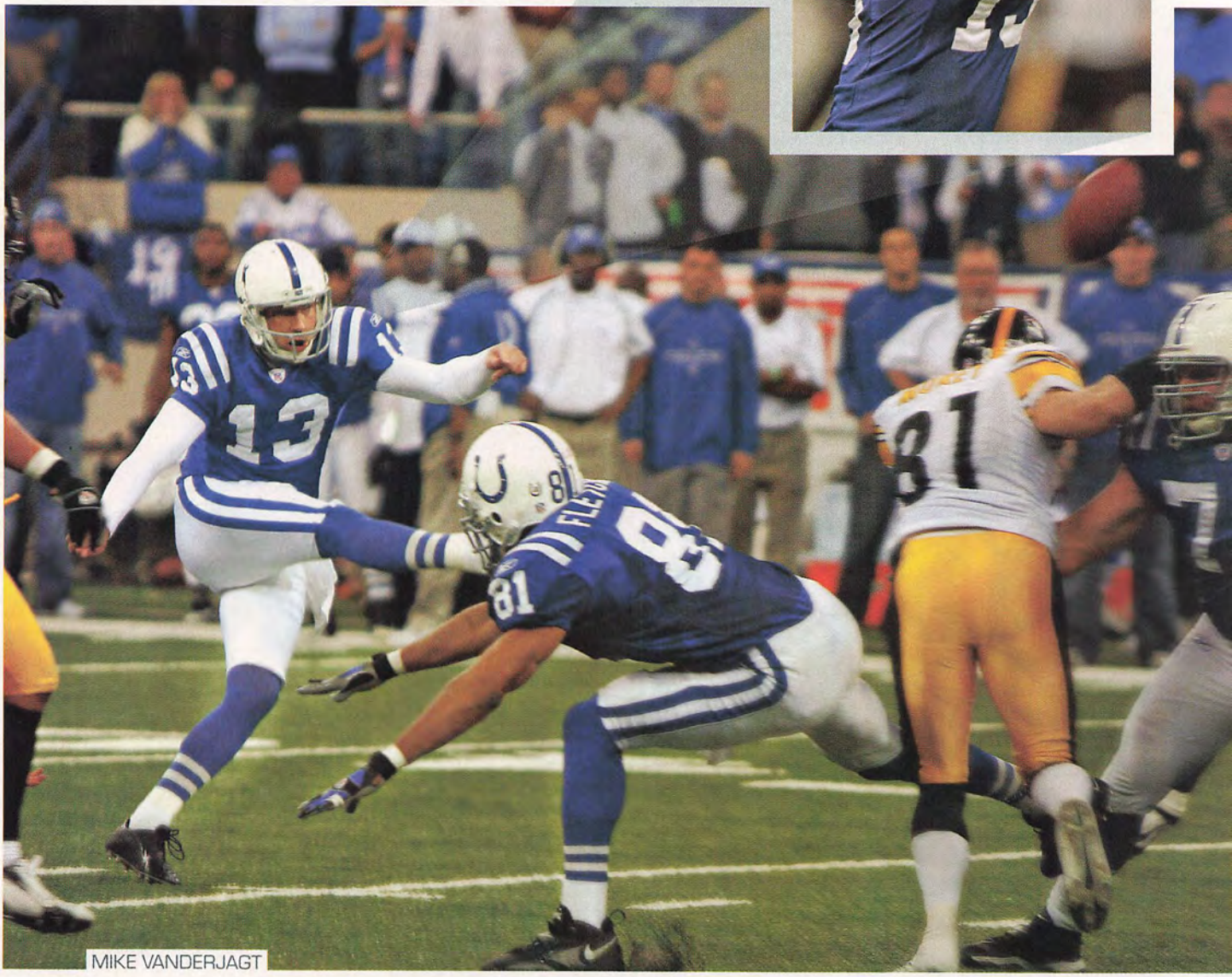
# Getting their KICKS

By David Sweet

Despite its best efforts over the years to curtail their importance, the NFL has been unable to stop the rising impact of kickers on the game.

It was perhaps the most dramatic game of last season. Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning ignored Coach Tony Dungy's demand to punt, went for it on fourth-and-two and kept the playoff battle against the Steelers alive. Later, when Pittsburgh running back Jerome Bettis fumbled away a sure victory, and Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger tackled Colts cornerback Nick Harper to squelch a fumble





MIKE VANDERJAGT

return for a touchdown with fewer than 70 seconds to play, jaws dropped among millions of Americans, whether they felt allegiance to one of the teams or not.

The divisional playoff game between the Steelers and Colts was worthy of the full NFL Films treatment. The late John Facenda would have been proud to lend his baritone narration to the 2006 drama. So how did it end? Did the Colts, like Johnny Unitas in days of yore, sneak across the goal line for a touchdown? Did the Steelers pull off another "Immaculate Reception" to finish off their rivals?

Not even close. Rather, a kicker tried to tie the game with a 46-yard field goal, and it fluttered into the crowd, wide of the goalpost by perhaps 20 yards.

No one was surprised the game came down to a soccer-style foot—though many were stunned that Mike Vanderjagt, one of the league's most accurate kickers ever, missed. In the NFL—dominated by parity, where a quarter of the games are decided by no more than a field goal—diminutive kickers often have the final say, and their accuracy is at record levels.

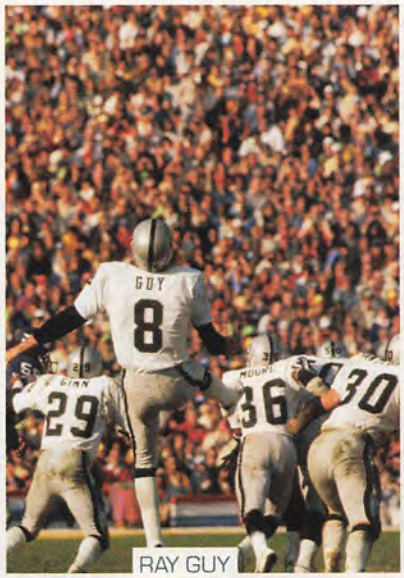
Which raises the question: Is the kicker becoming too influential a force in a game whose staples, for the lion's share of minutes, are speed and brute strength?

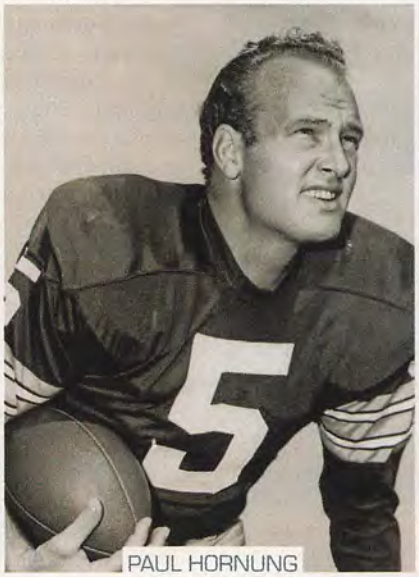
"If you think about it, the field goal seems more detached from the rest of a football game than, say, a shootout in hockey or penalty kicks in soccer," says Russell Levine, who writes the "Confessions of a Football Junkie" column for *footballoutsiders.com*. "I wouldn't mind seeing field goals made less automatic. But what's the option? Does anyone really desire to see 300-pound lineman toe-kicking the ball?"

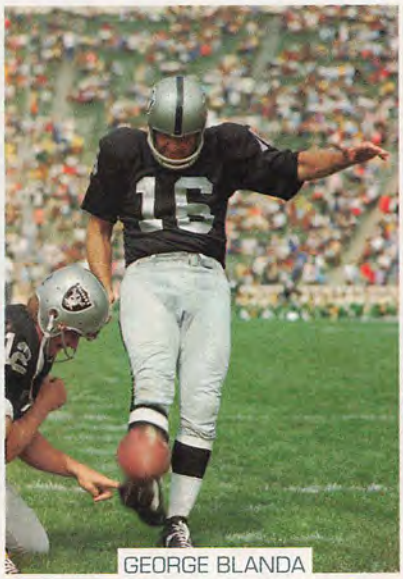
Back before kickers struck the ball with the side of their foot, before domed stadiums offered them optimum conditions and before the position was specialized for one player on every team, the kicker was often an NFL afterthought.

Teams wouldn't waste a No. 1 draft choice on a kicker in the league's first half-century or so, until Oakland picked kicker/punter Ray Guy in 1973 out of Southern Miss (though Guy ended up being used as a punter his entire pro career). Two more kickers, Steve Little of Arkansas and Russell Erxleben from Texas, were drafted in the late 1970s, and then Florida State's Sebastian Janikowski was selected by the Raiders as a first-rounder in 2000.

It often used to be that kickers were really offensive backs, tackles or prominent players at other positions who found some spare time to boot extra points and field goals. Green Bay kicker Paul Hornung, for instance, was far better known for his rushing skills, while Oakland's George Blanda filled in often at quarterback for starter Daryle Lamonica.

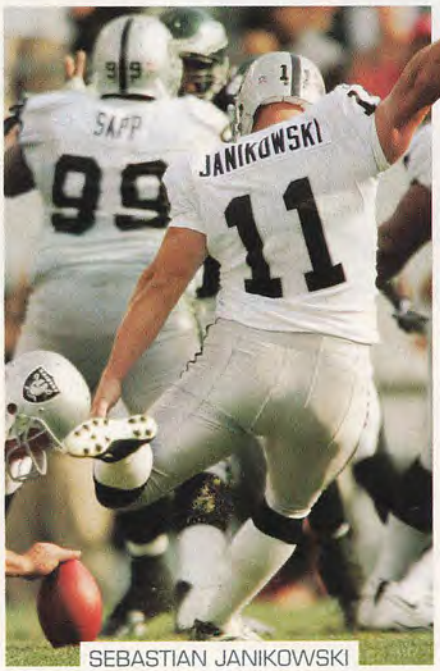

RAY GUY


PAUL HORNUNG


GEORGE BLANDA

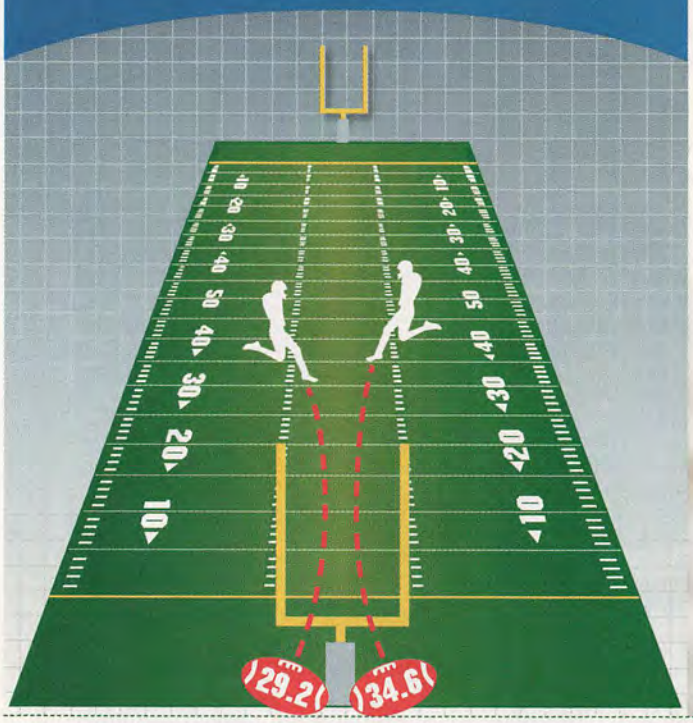
**I WOULDN'T MIND SEEING FIELD GOALS MADE LESS AUTOMATIC.**
But what's the option? Does anyone really desire to see **300-pound lineman** toe-kicking the ball?

**—Russell Levine**
author of *Confessions of a Football Junkie*


SEBASTIAN JANIKOWSKI

FACING PAGE (TOP TO BOTTOM): MARK COWAN / ICON SMI; BRIAN SPURLOCK / US PRESSWIRE. THIS PAGE (L TO R): FOCUS ON SPORT / GETTY IMAGES; AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS (2). BOTTOM: DAVID DRAPKIN / GETTY IMAGES

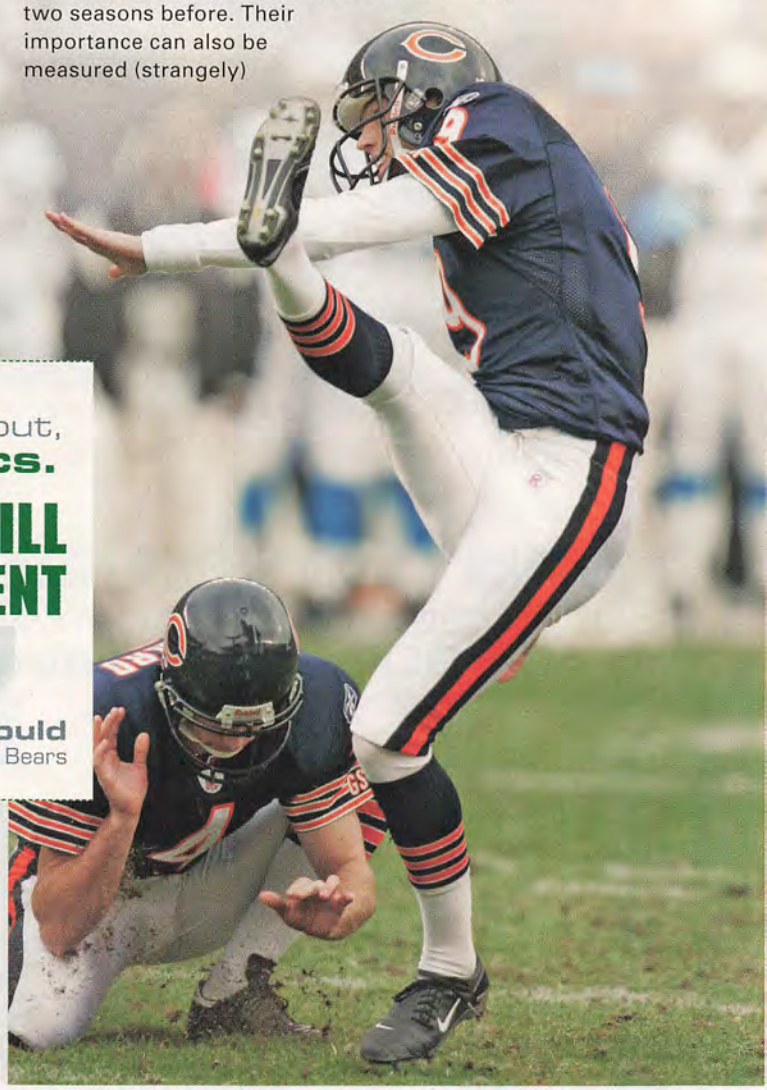
Back in 1970, the average successful kick traveled **29.2 yards**, while today the average is **34.6** yards.




"As new strength regimens come out, I'd keep an eye on statistics. I bet the accuracy rate will climb above 85, 90 percent in the next few years."

The NFL has not intended for the kickers' role to grow in importance. Rule changes since the AFL/NFL merger have included moving the goalpost 10 yards back from the goal line to the end line, and also penalizing missed field goals of 20 yards or more by giving opponents the ball at the spot of the attempt, rather than at the 20-yard line, as was the longtime rule. About the only thing the league hasn't tried is to make the field goal, worth three points today, the same amount of points as a safety.

Despite attempts to rein them in, the importance of kickers continues to rise. Out of the top 30 scorers in the NFL during the 2005 season, 27 were kickers (measured by field goals and extra points), compared with 24 only two seasons before. Their importance can also be measured (strangely) by the fact so many are let go during the season. Last year, Doug Brien of the Bears was inaccurate early on and was quickly replaced by Gould, while Dallas fired three kickers, including Jose Cortez, after he missed a chip shot to win a game.



JOHN GRESS / ICON SMI

As new **strength regimens** come out, **I'd keep an eye on statistics.**

## I BET THE ACCURACY RATE WILL CLIMB ABOVE 85, 90 PERCENT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

—**Robbie Gould**
kicker, Chicago Bears

A glance at statistics shows kickers in the old days couldn't match up with today's batch. Consider this: In 1970, fewer than 60 percent of field-goal attempts were successful; 10 years later, the number was roughly two out of every three splitting the uprights.

The differences are startling when you compare those statistics to the past six NFL seasons. From 2000 to 2003, kickers routinely made more than 75 percent of field-goal attempts. During the last two seasons, field-goal accuracy exceeded 80 percent. While these numbers have soared, they've been wedded, strangely enough, to an increase in the average length of field goals made. Back in 1970, the average successful kick traveled 29.2 yards, while today the average is 34.6 yards.

Chicago Bears kicker Robbie Gould believes better techniques and improved training are keys to the soaring numbers.

"The soccer-style kickers are learning how to have a controlled swing and how to shorten down on their steps," Gould says. "There's also a lot more power-lifting, stretching, squatting. Strength training has allowed kickers to become more accurate.

Even Vanderjagt, who once made a record 42 field goals in a row, received little interest from the Colts after his playoff miss ended their season, and he signed with Dallas this spring as a free agent. With so many contests decided in the final minutes by kickers, coaches have no patience with those who miss clutch kicks.

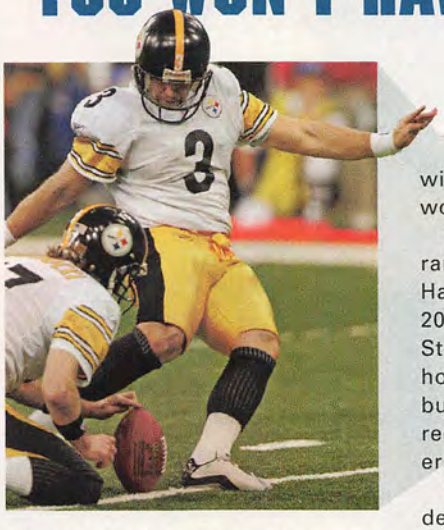
"All of us kickers realize if you're not above 75 percent, you won't have the job," Pittsburgh Steelers kicker Jeff Reed says. "There are so many capable players now. A lot of good soccer players have converted to football. There's money in football."

Especially now. Since their influence has grown, kickers' salaries have jumped in unison. Back in 2000, only one kicker, Olindo Mare of Miami, earned a base salary of $1 million or more, and only four other kickers made more than $1 million in total salary, including signing bonuses and other bonuses. In 2004, four kickers—Green Bay's Ryan Longwell, New England's Adam Vinatieri, St. Louis' Jeff Wilkins and Tennessee's Joe Nedney—pulled in a base salary of $1 million or more, while a dozen were paid a total salary beyond $1 million, topped by Shayne Graham of Cincinnati at nearly $3.7 million.

In fact, though kickers don't block, don't catch, rarely tackle and—save for the infamous case of Garo Yepremian of Miami during Super Bowl VII—don't pass, their

**ALL OF US KICKERS REALIZE IF YOU'RE NOT ABOVE 75 PERCENT, YOU WON'T HAVE THE JOB.**

**—Jeff Reed**
kicker, Pittsburgh Steelers



salaries match up well with players who possess some of the above skills. For instance, only five tight ends earned at least $1 million in base salaries in 2004, compared with four kickers. And none in the latter group woke up sore the day after a game.

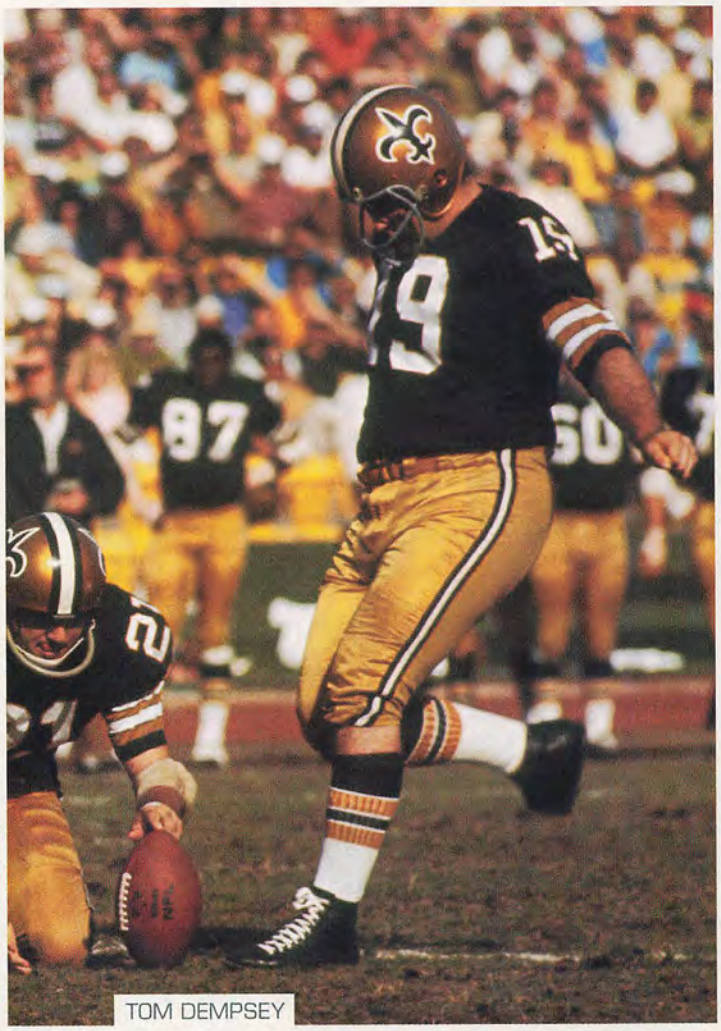
Despite many successes, kickers have rarely been welcomed into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. Including the 2006 inductees, only one, Kansas City's Jan Stenerud, has been enshrined among 235 honored there. And beyond Stenerud's bronze bust and Tom Dempsey's half-boot from his record 63-yard field goal for the Saints, kickers are little noted in Canton.

Gould bristles at the idea that kickers don't deserve the same respect as other players.

"We're out there practicing day-in and day-out," he says. "Our job is just as important as anyone else's job on the team."

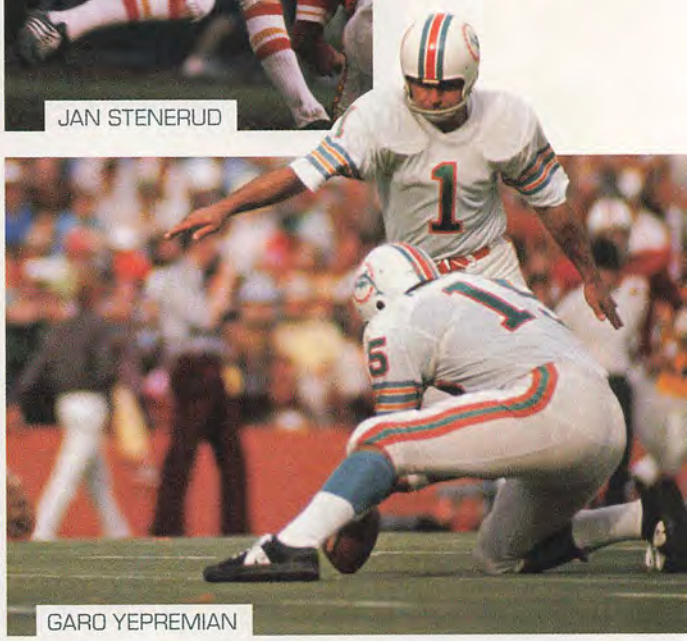
In fact, for that moment when the game's on the line and the kicker trots out on the field, not even the biggest behemoth can match the importance of a 5-foot-9 sidewinder. S&S

*David Sweet, a frequent contributor to* Street & Smith's, *writes a sports column for NBCSports.com and lives in Lake Forest, Ill.*



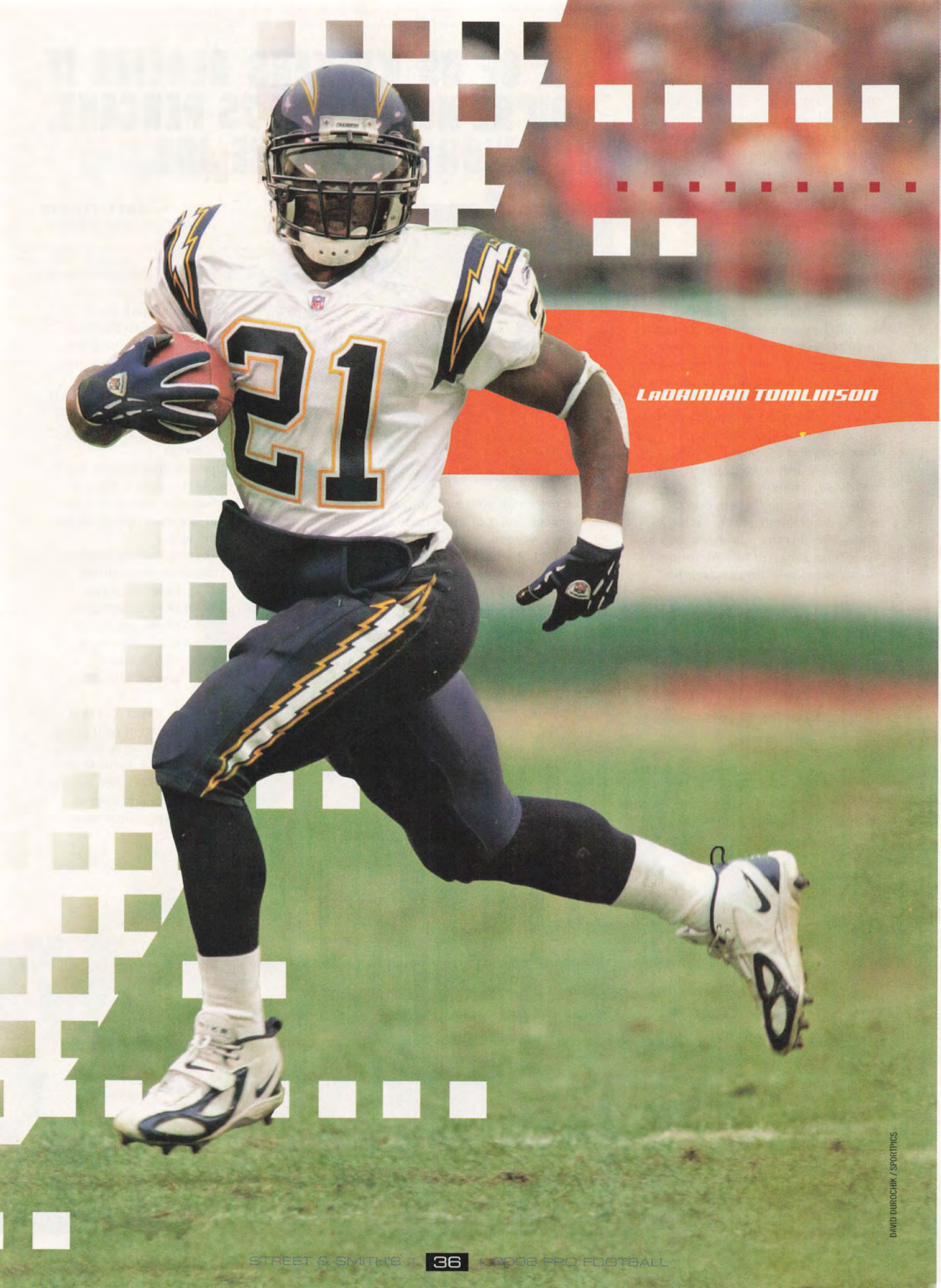
TOM DEMPSEY

JAN STENERUD



GARO YEPREMIAN

TOP: MARK COWAN / ICON SMI; STENERUD: FOCUS ON SPORT / GETTY IMAGES; YEPREMIAN: KIDWILER COLLECTION / DIAMOND IMAGES / GETTY IMAGES; DEMPSEY: GEORGE LONG / LPI / WIRE IMAGE.COM

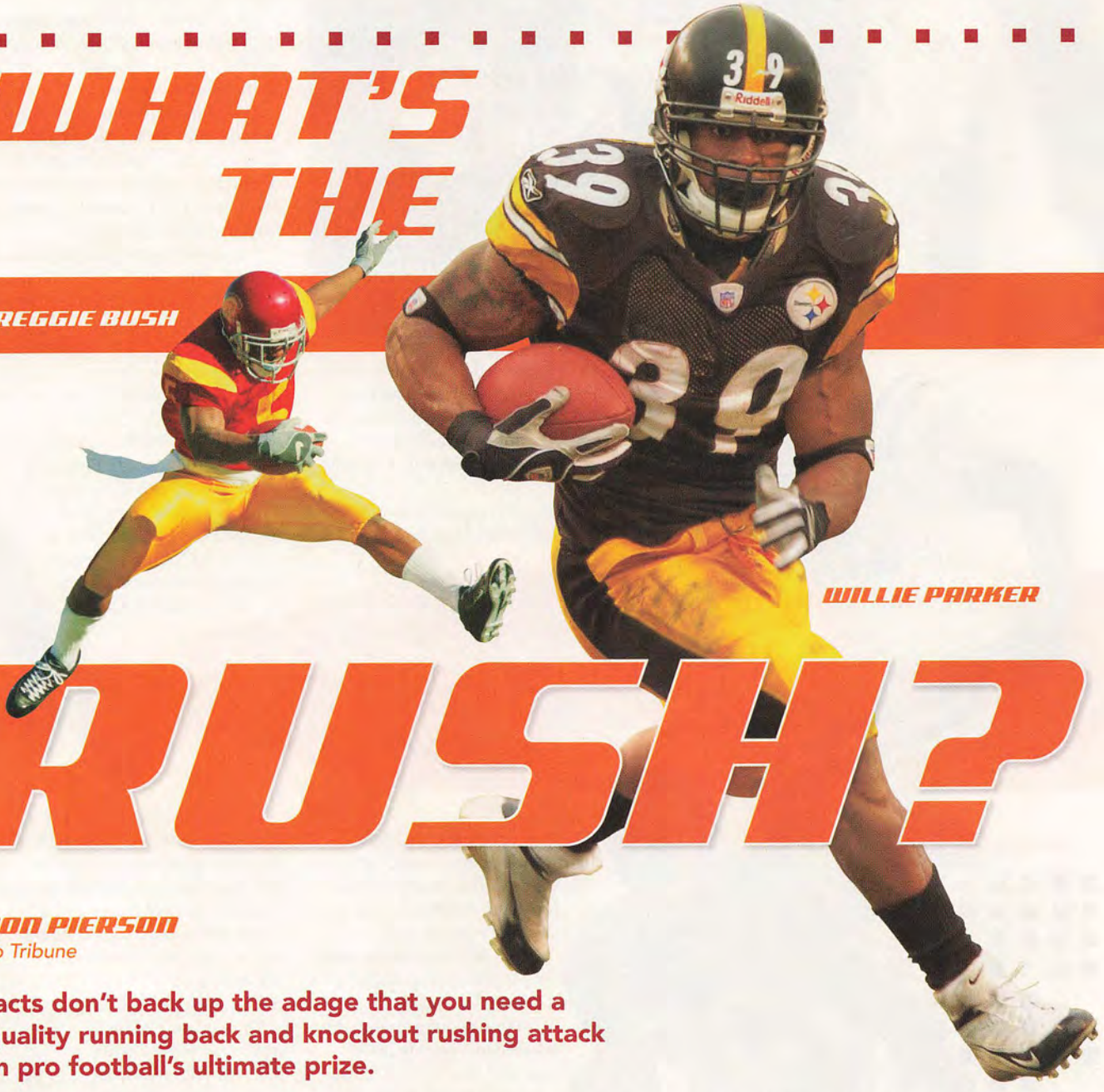



DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

# WHAT'S THE RUSH?

REGGIE BUSH

WILLIE PARKER



BY DON PIERSON
Chicago Tribune

**The facts don't back up the adage that you need a star-quality running back and knockout rushing attack to win pro football's ultimate prize.**

Is Reggie Bush worth all the fuss?

Seattle's Shaun Alexander led the league in rushing and set a record for touchdowns last year, yet couldn't get into the end zone or outshine unsung Willie Parker and retiring Jerome Bettis in the Super Bowl.

Edgerrin James got a $30 million contract to jump from Indianapolis to Arizona after never getting to a Super Bowl with the Colts. Do the Cardinals really expect him to carry them there?

The consensus best running back in football is San Diego's LaDainian Tomlinson. He's had only two winning seasons in five years with the Chargers.

Kansas City's Larry Johnson was the hottest back in the league the second half of last season, but couldn't get his Chiefs into the playoffs.

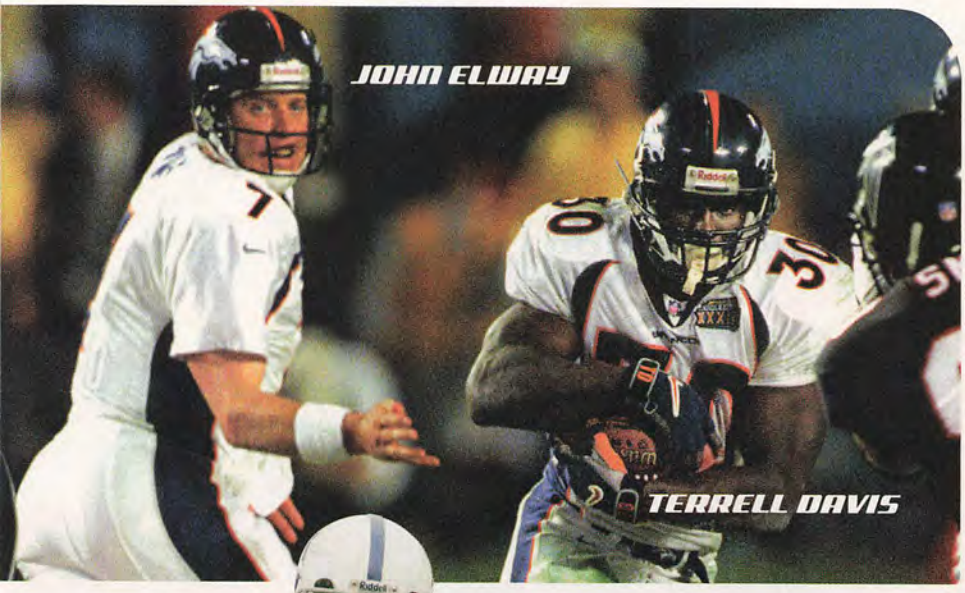
Yet ask any NFL coach the key to success and it always starts with two sides of a time-honored coin: run and stop the run.

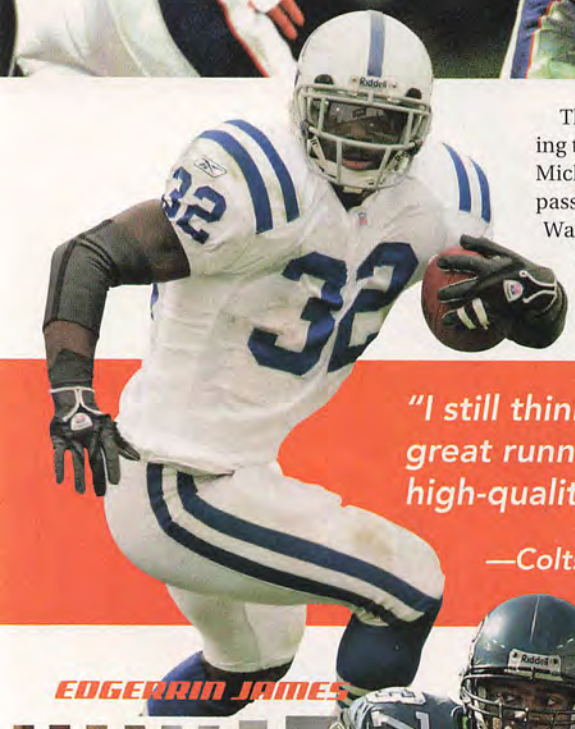
So Bush enters the NFL when runners still matter, although even the best ones can't make the difference, not by themselves. The most heralded running back to enter the NFL in years will find out that even leading the league in rushing guarantees nothing. Usually, it demonstrates no more than an unbalanced offense.

Skeptics worry about whether Bush can carry a "normal" workload of 21 carries a game, the average of the top 10 NFL rushers last season. It's the wrong question. The key to Bush's success is whether he can complement what his team does and vice versa.

Coaches agree that commitment to running is at least as important as who is doing the running. The Atlanta Falcons, Denver Broncos and Pittsburgh Steelers are exhibits A, B and C.

(L TO R): BEN CHEN / US PRESSWIRE; DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS



The Falcons have led the league in rushing the last two years with a quarterback, Michael Vick, who still runs better than he passes, and a diminutive running back, Warrick Dunn, who carries only 17 times a game.

The Broncos have always run the ball well, whether Mike Anderson, Reuben Droughns or Clinton Portis was doing the ball-carrying. They got rid of each, all of whom were team-leading or league-leading rushers. This year, Coach Mike Shanahan may try to prove his point with castoff Ron Dayne.

"I think your running game is based on your offensive line and you've got to have a good running back, but I agree that you have to have a commitment to run the football to be one of the top teams," Shanahan says.

The Steelers won the Super Bowl with a running back, Parker, who wasn't even drafted after barely playing as a collegian for Coach John Bunting at North Carolina.

"I think you have to have a good back," Steelers Coach Bill Cowher says. "You have to have more than one. A good running game is a good back and a good line. Everything starts in my mind in the offensive line. But a good back can take four-yard runs and turn them into six or seven-yard runs, and explosive guys can turn them into bigger than that."

That describes the speedy Parker, and also Bush. One was a free agent, the other a Heisman Trophy winner.

Aren't quarterbacks more important than running backs? They're harder to find, but that doesn't necessarily mean they're more important.

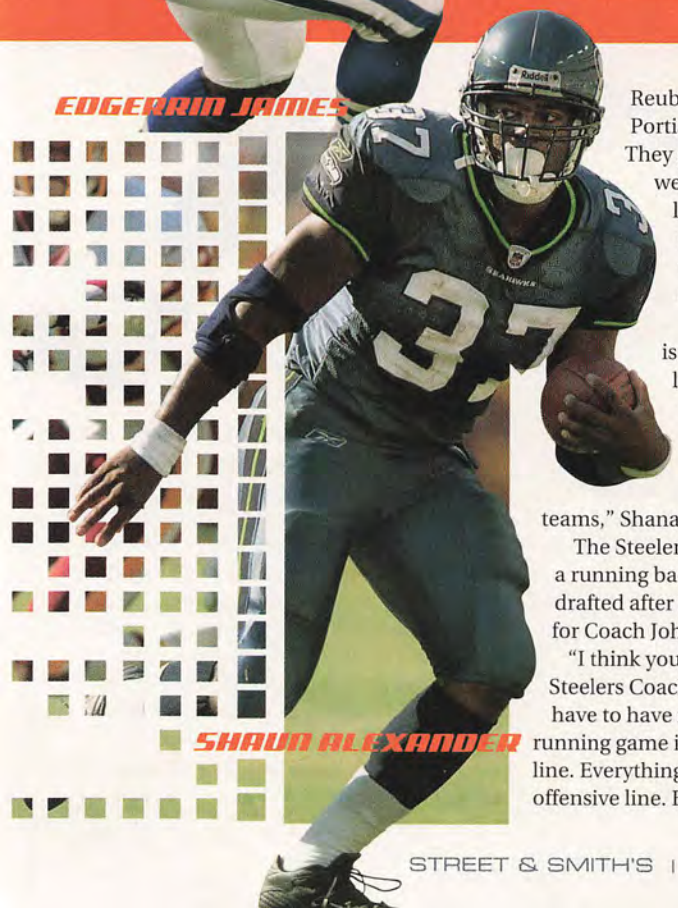
The Broncos thought they had the ultimate answer at quarterback in John Elway. He didn't win a Super Bowl until he was able to hand off to Terrell Davis, another star NFL rusher who was underutilized in college (Georgia).

Davis was the last running back to win a rushing title and an NFL championship in the same season (1998). Before that, Emmitt Smith won both with the Dallas Cowboys in 1992, 1993 and 1995, but Smith was an anomaly. Before Smith, Jim Brown of the 1964 Cleveland Browns was the last to do it.

Meanwhile, the New England Patriots won Super Bowls with Antowain Smith and Corey Dillon. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers won with Michael Pittman, who had 718 yards during the 2002 regular season and 124 in the Super Bowl.

*"I still think it's tough to have a great running game without a high-quality back."*

—Colts Coach **TONY DUNGY**




But are great passers any more successful? Not really. Many times, passing leaders earn their titles because their teams are often behind. The only player in the last 30 years to win a passing title and a Super Bowl in the same season was Kurt Warner with the St. Louis Rams in 1999.

The Arizona Cardinals had more penalty yards than rushing yards last season. With the worst rushing offense in the league, they obviously believe James can make them better.

"I felt like all they were missing was a back," James says.

With 100-catch receivers Anquan Boldin and Larry Fitzgerald, Cardinals

TOP TO BOTTOM: ALLEN KEE / WIRE IMAGE.COM; TOM DIPACE / SPORTSCHROME; MIKE ALLEN

Coach Dennis Green salivates over James.

"It's very difficult to stay with the run as much as you should and as much as you want to if you feel you can have so much more success throwing the ball," Green says. "You're probably not right [about running backs being overrated], but it just appears that way because you've got two pretty good receivers. I think now we'll give the running game the kind of commitment it should have."

So the question now is how much the Colts will miss James. They have great receivers, too, in Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne. But even with James and quarterback Peyton Manning, a Super Bowl has escaped them.

"I still think it's tough to have a great running game without a high-quality back," Colts Coach Tony Dungy says.

But he insists there are a lot of high-quality backs without high profiles.

"We like to have the notion those guys in Denver were not very good, but they are all pretty good backs," Dungy says. "We have a guy, Dominic Rhodes, who is a good back. If he stays healthy and runs 250 times, he'll gain 1,200 to 1,300 yards. People will say they didn't really need Edgerrin James. 'Look what they did with Dominic Rhodes.' But Dominic is a really good back; he's just a little bit unknown right now."

Unknown is not Bush's problem. Untested at the pro level but hardly an unproven talent, he has been under a microscope from the minute he stood on the sidelines during crucial downs in the Rose Bowl loss to Texas while teammate LenDale White did some of the heavier work.

"I can be an every-down back, even though I'm not the biggest guy," says the 5-11, 200-pound Bush. "I'm not 220 pounds, [but] I can still carry the load and be in there when the game is on the line. Obviously, I'm going to want the ball in my hands. I'm a playmaker."

Versatility is what separates Bush, dwarfing the subject of durability.

"I guess the most similar comparison I've seen is Marshall Faulk, in the way that the St. Louis Rams use him," Bush says.

Faulk could play receiver and return kicks if necessary, just as Chicago's Gale Sayers did in another era. The Faulk and Sayers comparisons imply Bush is not a conventional running back, but he's a special offensive weapon.

"Having a player you can line up all over the place presents a problem for the defense," Houston Texans Coach Gary Kubiak says. "The kid can get touches a lot of ways. He can get touches as a runner, receiver and returner. You don't have to ensure him so many carries. I don't think he'll have any problems getting his hands on the ball."

To keep Alexander, Seattle paid him a rich contract of eight years, $62 million, which in reality-based terms is closer to James' deal of four years, $30 million. The Seahawks simply couldn't imagine replacing 1,880 yards and 27 touchdowns.

"You always find the next person," Dungy says. "I just think back to when Marshall [Faulk] left [Indianapolis]. I know it was the same thing: 'How are we going to replace this guy?'

"I think at that time, everybody wanted [the Colts] to take Ricky Williams, so you never know how things are going to go. We found 'Edge' and we'll find someone else."

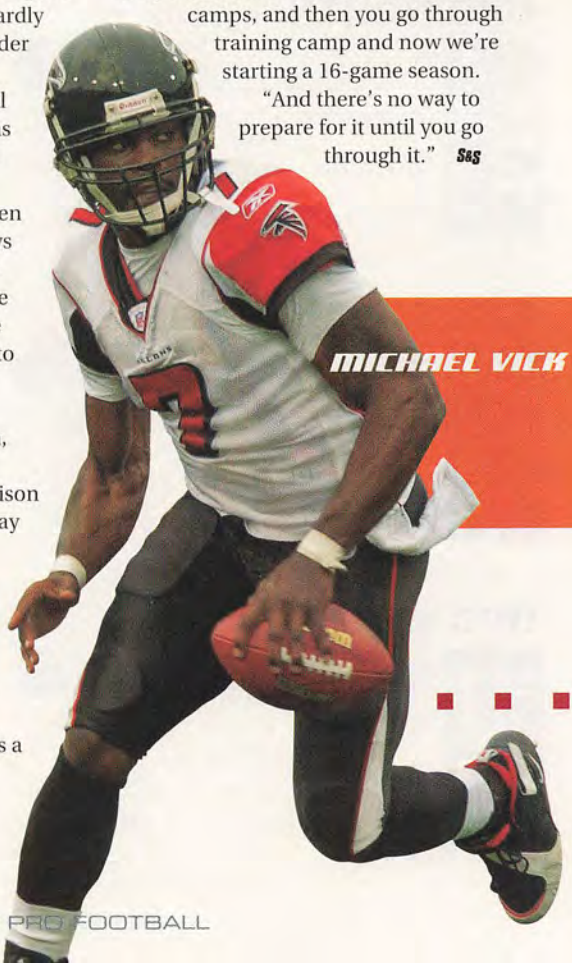
Dungy might prefer Bush to Rhodes, but either way he's going to run.

Like all good running backs, Bush eventually will be worth the fuss. Cowher, who watched Parker and quarterback Ben Roethlisberger as rookies in 2004, doesn't know how soon.

"I think it's hard for any rookie, to ask a lot of that guy through a long period of time," Cowher says. "Even what our quarterback did two years ago, it showed itself in the playoffs. He was tired. I think for every rookie it's a long year. It's mentally taxing. You go through the draft and all the hoopla and all the attention from minicamps, and then you go through training camp and now we're starting a 16-game season.

"And there's no way to prepare for it until you go through it." S&S

WARRICK DUNN

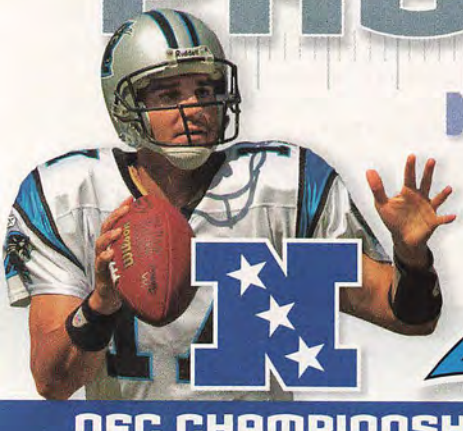


MICHAEL VICK

(L TO R): TOM DIPACE / SPORTSCHROME; DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

Street & Smith's

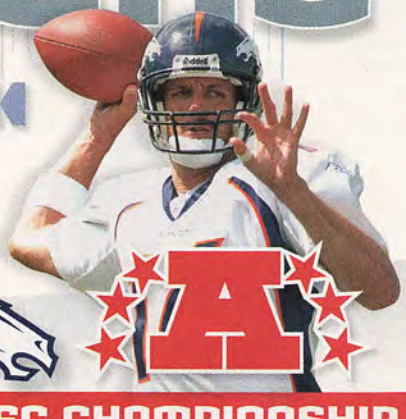
# 2006 PREDICTIONS



## SUPER BOWL XLI

Feb. 4, 2007 Dolphins Stadium Miami

**CAROLINA OVER DENVER**



### NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

**CAROLINA OVER SEATTLE**

### AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

**DENVER OVER INDIANAPOLIS**

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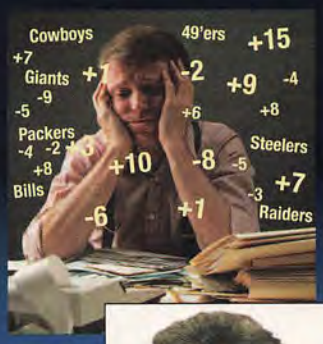


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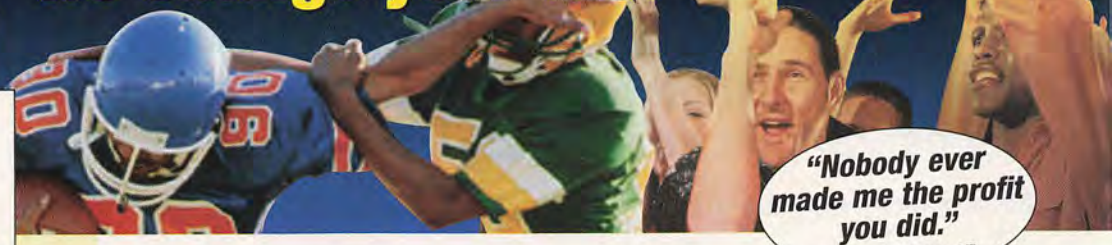

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|---|---|---|---|
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| | Redskins / Cowboys ↓35½ | 14-13 | W |
| O22 | Kentucky (+10) Ole Miss | 7-13 | W |
| O29 | Oklahoma (-2) Nebraska | 31-24 | W |
| N19 | Oklahoma (+7½) Tex Tech | 21-23 | W |
| D 3 | Georgia (+1½) LSU | 34-14 | W |
| D17 | Patriots (-6) Bucs | 28-0 | W |
| D18 | Chargers (+7½) Colts | 26-17 | W |
| J 2 | Alabama (+3½) Tex Tech | 13-10 | W |
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# AFC EAST

## Belichick coaching tree could pay dividends this season for Dolphins

By **Larry Weisman** *USA Today*

What sort of tree bears fruit that differs completely in taste and texture?

That would be the coaching tree of Bill Belichick. The garden in which it grows is the AFC East. The fruit of this particular bit of arboreal splendor: Nick Saban and Eric Mangini.

Belichick is, of course, ensconced firmly in New England and working feverishly to retool a team that struggled with injuries in 2005 and ultimately played its worst game in its last game. Three Super Bowls won in four seasons was a gigantic achievement and now the Patriots can go for a fourth in six, which would equal what the Pittsburgh Steelers did in the 1970s. But the way is now cluttered by teams in the hands of Belichick disciples.

No two people seem, at first blush, more of different genus and species than Saban, beginning his second season coaching the Miami Dolphins, and Mangini, starting his first with the New York Jets. Saban, if we stick with our fruit theme, is tart and tangy, even pungent. Mangini is fleshy, pale, even mealy. Saban, who worked for Belichick in the 1980s with the Cleveland Browns, established his credentials as a college coach, first at Michigan State and then LSU. Mangini, also present in Cleveland and lastly defensive coordinator for one year with the Patriots, lacks the lofty credentials.

Saban's forceful personality and football acumen turned the sorry Dolphins around even with Ricky Williams suspended for four weeks, the quarterback situation less than stellar and the offensive line a virtual joke. The Dolphins won their last six games to finish 9-7 and there is no question in league circles that Saban will create a team to be reckoned with. In the simplest possible terms, he "gets it." There is no questioning who is in control or whose word is law.

**PREDICTED** ORDER OF FINISH:

Mangini, all of 35 years old, speaks so quietly that he almost appears to be whispering. Whether or not he actually has anything to say cannot yet be determined, but the content of his public comments shows him to be of linear descent from Belichick. The fruit doesn't fall far from the tree. How he will fare piecing back together a team that fell apart almost overnight is another fascinating proposition. It likely will not happen as a result of the force of personality.

Saban has the second-longest tenure in the AFC East behind Mr. Bill and that is another part of the division's story in 2006. Along with the Jets, the Buffalo Bills also have not only a new coach but a new general manager to go with the same old problems.

The Bills lost Coach Mike Mularkey after two seasons (to Miami as offensive coordinator, ironically enough) and also ditched GM Tom Donahoe, opting to bring in Dick Jauron as the coach and Marv Levy to handle football operations. Combined, Jauron, Levy and team owner Ralph Wilson have walked the earth for more than 220 years. What's new in Buffalo is old everywhere else.

Jauron, previously interim coach of the Detroit Lions, takes over a team that backslid last year and could have real problems gaining traction. If journeyman Kelly Holcomb wins the quarterback job, then J.P. Losman will be a busted first-round pick. Eric Moulds is gone. Not much is in the cupboard of offensive linemen, either, and the defense leaked badly against the run. If the Bills are in a race, it will be to the bottom.

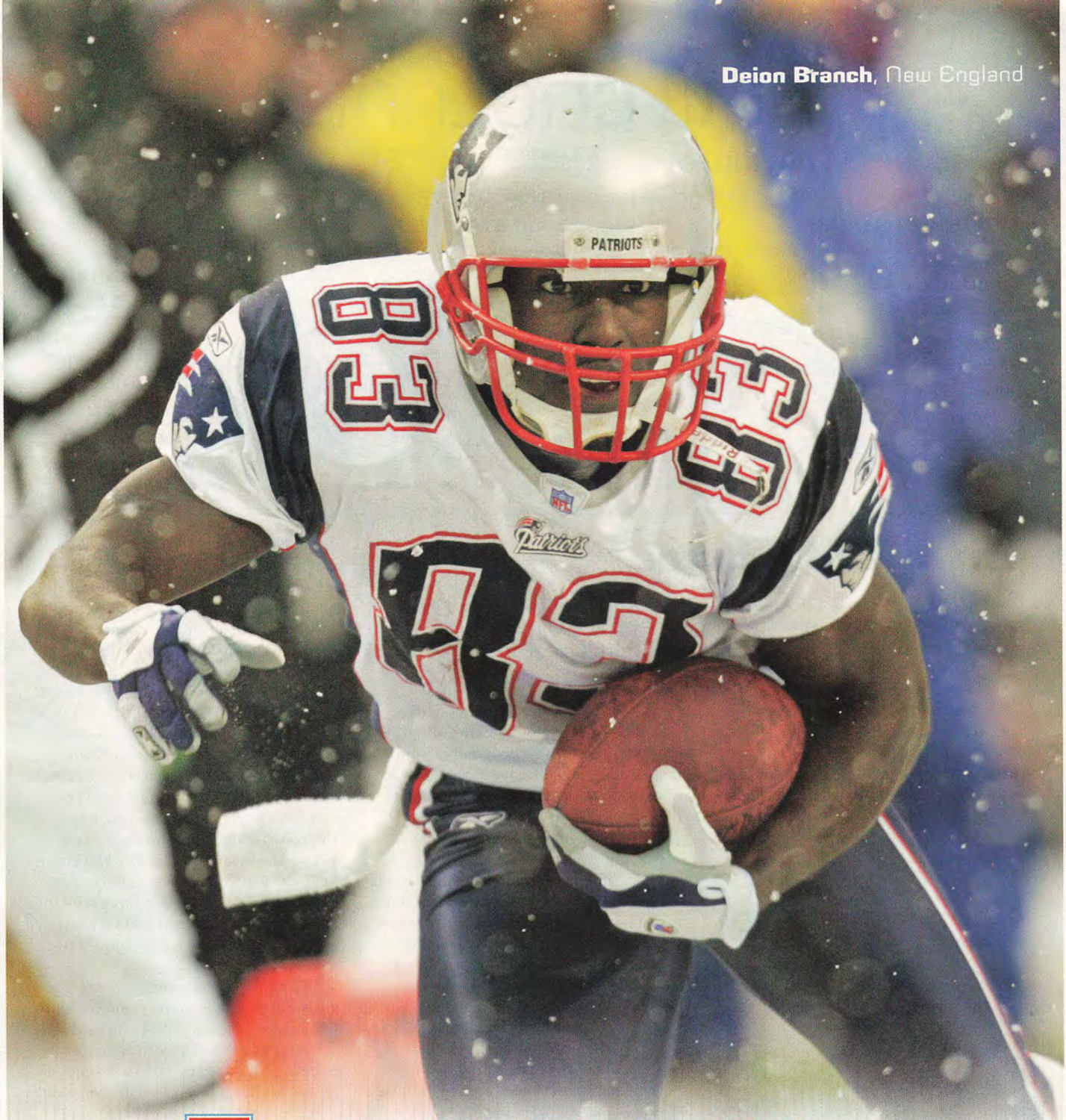
The real dynamic here involves the Dolphins, who tried to better their personnel, and the Patriots, who let a number of their old core group (Willie McGinest, Adam Vinatieri, Christian Fauria, David Givens) depart without much of an effort to retain them. Yes, we remember the '01 team and the 17 free agents who were signed for a total of about 80 cents and how Belichick made a Super Bowl team out of leftovers. That was then. This is almost now.

If Daunte Culpepper, acquired from the Minnesota Vikings for a second-round pick, has successfully rehabbed his knee and his mind-set, the Dolphins will make a strong run at taking the Patriots down and snapping their run at the top of the AFC East that includes three consecutive division titles and four in the last five years. The Dolphins haven't finished first since 2000. Here, the pupil might school the master.

The other pupil, Mangini, could be in for some more hard lessons. Chad Pennington, assuming he can throw, certainly cannot stand up to more physical abuse. Newcomer Patrick Ramsey knew nothing but beatings when he was the Washington Redskins' starter and now must learn his third different offense.

Look for the Dolphins to enjoy the harvest. They'd like to believe they can catch the Patriots. With Belichick and Brady, the Pats still have the edge.

The Bills? The Jets? One of them is headed for last and the Jets seem to have the most unanswered questions, making them the least-favorite son.




**Deion Branch**, New England

JOHN SOKOLOWSKI

# 5 THINGS TO WATCH

**1**

The second half of the year was telling in 2005 and may be again. Last year the Patriots went 6-2 over the last half to rally and win the division. The Dolphins made a run for it, winning their last six, while the Bills fell apart, losing six of their last seven. The stretch is key.

**2**

The Jets' offensive line may get worse before it gets better. They likely will start rookie D'Brickashaw Ferguson at left tackle and his fellow first-round pick, Nick Mangold, at center. Playing them right away is the right thing to do.

**3**

If Corey Dillon struggles, the Patriots won't hesitate to put top pick Laurence Maroney in. Either way, they'll have a stronger tandem this year. Denver Coach Mike Shanahan called Maroney the best running back in the draft.

**4**

If Daunte Culpepper hits his stride early, wide-out Chris Chambers could have a monster year. He has steadily improved each season and should benefit from an improved cast around him.

**5**

If Chad Pennington's shoulder bothers him and Patrick Ramsey struggles, the Jets may not wait to get a look at second-round pick Kellen Clemens at quarterback. Many of their fans were disappointed they did not select Matt Leinart, but they will be pleasantly surprised down the road by Clemens.

2005 RECORD: 10-6 | www.patriots.com

# NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

AFC EAST #1

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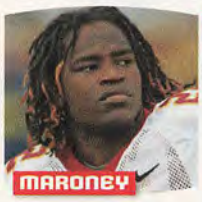
## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 5 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 3 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 5 |
| LINEBACKERS | 3 |
| SECONDARY | 3 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 5 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Tom Brady | LE | Ty Warren | P | Josh Miller |
| FB | Patrick Pass | NT | Vince Wilfork | PR | Troy Brown |
| RB | Corey Dillon | RE | Richard Seymour | H | Martin Gramatica |
| LT | Matt Light | OLB | Mike Vrabel | HR | Bethel Johnson |
| LG | Logan Mankins | ILB | Tedy Bruschi | | |
| C | Dan Koppen | ILB | Monty Beisel | | |
| RG | Stephen Neal | OLB | Rosevelt Colvin | | |
| RT | Brandon Gorin | LCB | Ellis Hobbs | | |
| TE | Daniel Graham | RCB | Asante Samuel | | |
| WR | Reche Caldwell | SS | Rodney Harrison | | |
| WR | Deion Branch | FS | Eugene Wilson | | |




## ON THE RISE

**LAURENCE MARONEY**
running back
The Minnesota rookie will pick up the pieces if Corey Dillon can't stay healthy.

## FADING FAST

**TROY BROWN**
wide receiver/defensive back
His versatility served him well, but he's no longer needed as an extra defensive back and his time at receiver has passed.

# The fire still burns

Sure, the cast of characters has changed, but the character hasn't, and there's still enough talent in New England to hold off the Fins.

Out, out, brief candle.

OK, we won't go the whole Shakespeare route on you here. But after all the talk of dynasties and legacies over the past few years, permit us a bit of dramatic flourish as we address the New England Patriots, their recent past and their plans for the future.

They won three Super Bowls in four years, earning them praise as a dynasty as impressive as any in NFL memory (if a bit shorter in duration than the Ming). They struggled with a boatload of injuries in 2005, but rallied from a .500 record at midseason to reach the second round of the playoffs.

There, the dynasty faltered.

Out, out, brief candle.

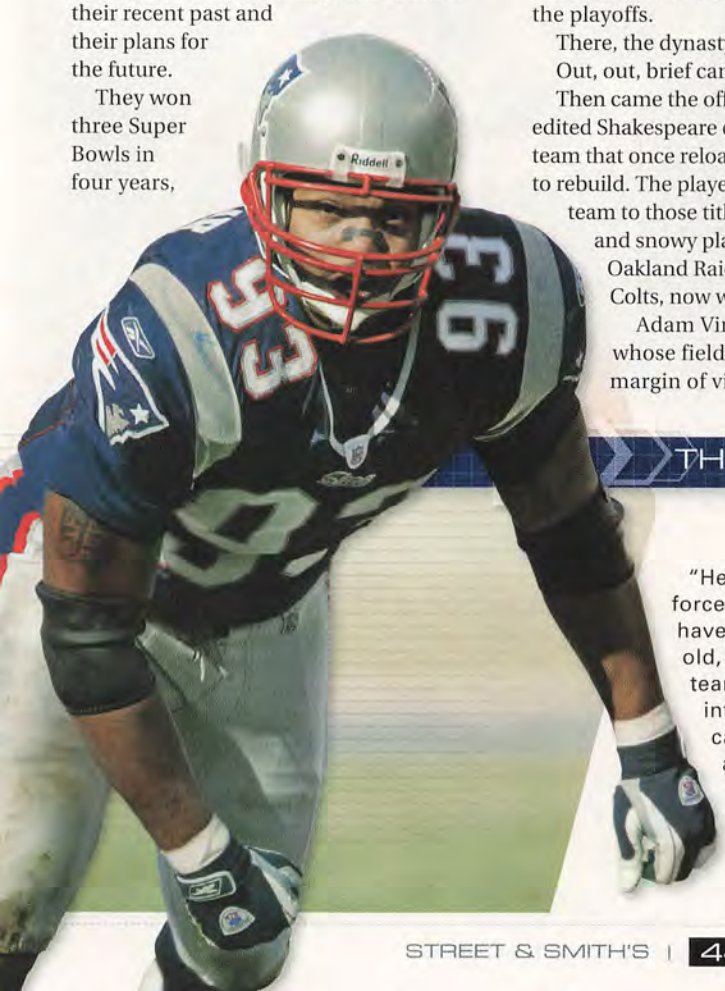
Then came the offseason and the Patriots edited Shakespeare down to this: Out, out. A team that once reloaded may have decided to rebuild. The players who helped this team to those titles, to those dramatic and snowy playoff wins over the Oakland Raiders and Indianapolis Colts, now work for others.

Adam Vinatieri, the kicker whose field goals provided the margin of victory in each of those Super Bowl triumphs, was deemed too expensive for the Patriots to try to retain. He signed with the Colts, the mortal enemies of the Patriots, and must relish the thought of kicking in a dome and not the winds of Foxboro. Willie McGinest, the linebacker whose career dated to the Patriots' loss to the Green Bay Packers in Super Bowl XXXI, exited for the Cleveland Browns and a reunion with his former defensive coordinator, Romeo Crennel.

Already a bit thin at receiver, the Patriots lost David Givens to the Tennessee Titans and Tim Dwight to the New York Jets. Offensive tackle Tom Ashworth signed with the Seattle Seahawks. Eric Mangini, a longtime Belichick assistant who in 2005 served as his defensive coordinator for the first time, also wandered off to the Jets ... as head coach (at the tender age of 34).

Out, out.

"It's always disappointing to see those guys who have helped win championships not [be] here," defensive end Richard Seymour said as he signed a contract extension. "You never want to see guys go, but it's just the nature of the beast and



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## THE BOOK ON ... RICHARD SEYMOUR

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"He just got the big contract extension and he needs to be the force on defense. A lot of the guys that lent identity to this team have moved on, guys like Willie McGinest. Tedy Bruschi is getting old, Mike Vrabel is getting old and this needs to become Seymour's team now. He's got Vince Wilfork beside him who's developing into a pretty good player, and now it focuses on Seymour. He can be a double-digit sack guy and also be a productive player against the run. He's not one-dimensional. I like him better inside, when the Patriots go to a four-man line, than outside in their base 3-4. Offenses have to know where he lines up and account for him. You have to put two bodies on him. You just can't single-block him."

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL / TOM DIPACE

**FACT**

In their first 40 years of existence, the Patriots won five division titles and seven playoff games. In the last six seasons with Bill Belichick as coach, New England has won four division titles and 10 playoff games.

**STAT**

In 2005, the Patriots allowed 165 points in their eight regular-season home games. In the previous two regular seasons combined, New England gave up only 173 points at Gillette Stadium.

**LOOK IT UP**

The 2005 Patriots became the first team in NFL history to alternate wins and losses over a season's first nine games.

## 5-YEAR WINS

## PATRIOTS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. BILL BELICHICK (6 YEARS)
   **Record with Patriots:** 73-34
2. BILL PARCELLS (4 YEARS)
   **Record with Patriots:** 34-34
3. RAYMOND BERRY (6 YEARS)
   **Record with Patriots:** 51-41

## THE COUNT

**7**
Starting strong safeties used by the Patriots in 2005. No other team used more than four.

**21**
Game-winning drives in the fourth quarter or overtime engineered by Tom Brady since 2001 (most in NFL).

**117**
Consecutive games Pats didn't allow 40-plus points prior to their 41-17 loss to San Diego last October.

hopefully we can get some guys in, which we've done in the past, to fill that void."

So far, the influx of veterans hasn't been dazzling. Tebucky Jones? We've seen this show before. Reche Caldwell? A flop with the San Diego Chargers. Martin Gramatica, out of the league last year, gets the first shot at replacing the clutch Vinatieri.

On balance, all of this figures to make the Patriots worse. They lost starters, performers who were tested and successful under pressure, people who were as solid in the locker room as they were on the field. They replaced them with the failed and, in Gramatica's case, the petulant.

Two Patriots who stayed behind preclude outright condemnation. One is Bill Belichick, who has showed that he can take a lump of clay, form it into a dangerous tool and bludgeon his enemies. The other is Scott Pioli, Belichick's personnel man. Between them they assembled championship teams from an array of draft picks, trades and adroit free-agent shopping. That first Super Bowl team featured 17 free agents signed on the cheap. So there is reason to believe that Belichick and Pioli know what they've lost and what they must do to fill the holes.

It isn't as if they purged the entire roster. If the Patriots can get back many of the players they lost a year ago, they should still be formidable. This is a team that used 45 different players in the starting lineup last year, the most by any division champion since 1970. They still have a couple of Super Bowl MVPs on the roster, quarterback Tom Brady and receiver Deion Branch, and gritty linebacker Tedy Bruschi remains at the heart of the defense. There are worse situations to be in.

On the offensive side of the ball, a healthy line will be a help to Corey Dillon,

## DRAFT REPORT

The Patriots used their first four selections to fill needs at the skill positions around QB Tom Brady. **Laurence Maroney** will be groomed to replace Corey Dillon at running back. **Chad Jackson** shot up the draft boards after the NFL Combine and will ease the free-agent loss of David Givens (Titans). **David Thomas** excels as a pass catcher, but finds himself behind Ben Watson and Daniel Graham at tight end. Highly productive **Garrett Mills** excels as a receiver, but is a TE/FB/H-back 'tweener type who will need to find his best position. **Stephen Gostkowski** was added in the fourth round to replace Adam Vinatieri as placekicker. **Ryan O'Callaghan** is a pure right tackle who will provide depth. Productive **Jeremy Mincey** is a high-effort defensive end from the SEC. Guard **Dan Stevenson** has good size and comes recommended by Coach Charlie Weis of Notre Dame. **LeKevin Smith** should be able to provide depth at all three D-line positions. **Willie Andrews** has speed but lacks size and will need to make the transition to cornerback.

GRADE: **B+**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 21 | Maroney, Laurence | RB | 6-0 | 216 | Minnesota |
| 2 | 4 | Jackson, Chad | WR | 6-1 | 212 | Florida |
| 3 | 22 | Thomas, David | TE | 6-3 | 239 | Texas |
| 4 | 9 | Mills, Garrett | TE | 6-1 | 227 | Tulsa |
| 4 | 21 | Gostkowski, Stephen | K | 6-2 | 210 | Memphis |
| 5 | 3 | O'Callaghan, Ryan | G | 6-7 | 343 | California |
| 6 | 22 | Mincey, Jeremy | DE | 6-4 | 258 | Florida |
| 6 | 36 | Stevenson, Dan | G | 6-5 | 297 | Notre Dame |
| 6 | 37 | Smith, LeKevin | DT | 6-3 | 315 | Nebraska |
| 7 | 21 | Andrews, Willie | DB | 5-9 | 182 | Baylor |

## 2006 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. Buffalo
SEPT. 10 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 2** @ New York Jets
SEPT. 17 4:15
SCORE

**WEEK 3** vs. Denver
SEPT. 24 8:15
SCORE

**WEEK 4** @ Cincinnati
OCT. 1 4:15
SCORE

**WEEK 5** vs. Miami
OCT. 8 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 6** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 7** @ Buffalo
OCT. 22 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 8** @ Minnesota
OCT. 30 8:30
SCORE

**WEEK 9** vs. Indianapolis
NOV. 5 8:15
SCORE

**WEEK 10** vs. New York Jets
NOV. 12 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 11** @ Green Bay
NOV. 19 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 12** vs. Chicago
NOV. 26 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 13** vs. Detroit
DEC. 3 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 14** @ Miami
DEC. 10 1:00
★ MUST-SEE GAME ★
*Patriots were beaten in Miami last year and won't forget; this game could impact the division race.*
SCORE

**WEEK 15** vs. Houston
DEC. 17 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 16** @ Jacksonville
DEC. 24 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 17** @ Tennessee
DEC. 31 1:00
SCORE

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/08 | W | 30-20 | Oakland |
| 09/18 | L | 17-27 | at Carolina |
| 09/25 | W | 23-20 | at Pittsburgh |
| 10/02 | L | 17-41 | San Diego |
| 10/09 | W | 31-28 | at Atlanta |
| 10/16 | L | 20-28 | at Denver |
| 10/30 | W | 21-16 | Buffalo |
| 11/07 | L | 21-40 | Indianapolis |
| 11/13 | W | 23-16 | at Miami |
| 11/20 | W | 24-17 | New Orleans |
| 11/27 | L | 16-26 | at Kansas City |
| 12/04 | W | 16-3 | New York Jets |
| 12/11 | W | 35-7 | at Buffalo |
| 12/17 | W | 28-0 | Tampa Bay |
| 12/26 | W | 31-21 | at New York Jets |
| 01/01 | L | 26-28 | Miami |

WON **10**, LOST **6**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dillon | 209 | 733 | 3.5 | 29 | 12 |
| Pass | 54 | 245 | 4.5 | 31 | 3 |
| Evans | 51 | 192 | 3.8 | 21 | 0 |
| Faulk | 51 | 145 | 2.8 | 13 | 0 |
| Brady | 27 | 89 | 3.3 | 15 | 1 |
| Cloud | 23 | 59 | 2.6 | 15 | 0 |
| Zereoue | 7 | 14 | 2.0 | 12 | 0 |
| Givens | 2 | 13 | 6.5 | 9 | 0 |
| Cassel | 6 | 12 | 2.0 | 9 | 0 |
| Dwight | 4 | 11 | 2.8 | 12 | 0 |
| Flutie | 5 | -1 | -0.2 | 2 | 0 |
| **Patriots** | **439** | **1512** | **3.4** | **31** | **16** |
| **Opponents** | **437** | **1580** | **3.6** | **68** | **11** |

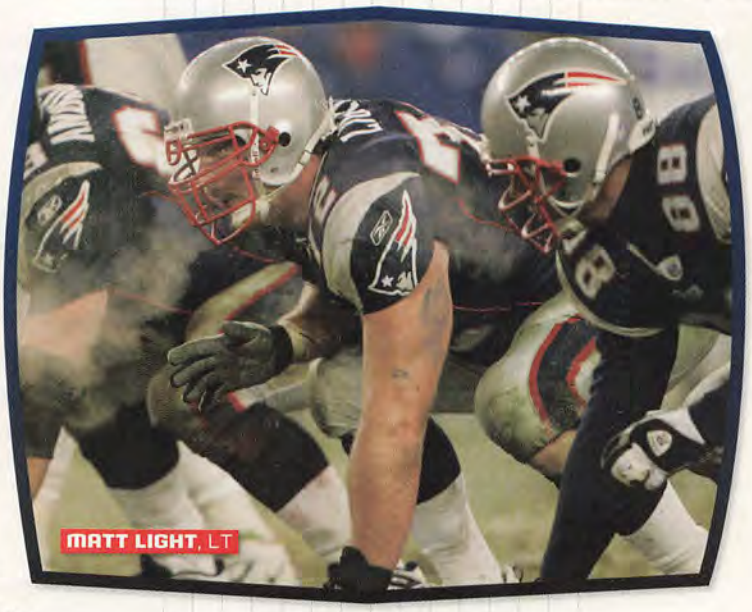
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Branch | 78 | 998 | 12.8 | 51 | 5 |
| Givens | 59 | 738 | 12.5 | 40 | 2 |
| T. Brown | 39 | 466 | 11.9 | 71 | 2 |
| Faulk | 29 | 260 | 9.0 | 23 | 0 |
| Watson | 29 | 441 | 15.2 | 35 | 4 |
| Dillon | 22 | 181 | 8.2 | 25 | 1 |
| Pass | 22 | 227 | 10.3 | 39 | 0 |
| Dwight | 19 | 332 | 17.5 | 59 | 3 |
| Graham | 16 | 235 | 14.7 | 45t | 3 |
| Evans | 10 | 88 | 8.8 | 19 | 0 |
| A. Davis | 9 | 190 | 21.1 | 60t | 1 |
| Fauria | 8 | 57 | 7.1 | 18 | 2 |
| Johnson | 4 | 67 | 16.8 | 55t | 1 |
| Childress | 3 | 32 | 10.7 | 21 | 0 |
| Vrabel | 3 | 4 | 1.3 | 2t | 3 |
| Ashworth | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1t | 1 |
| Zereoue | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| **Patriots** | **352** | **4322** | **12.3** | **71** | **28** |
| **Opponents** | **296** | **3926** | **13.3** | **85t** | **25** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brady | 530 | 334 | 4110 | 26 | 14 |
| Cassel | 24 | 13 | 183 | 2 | 1 |
| Flutie | 10 | 5 | 29 | 0 | 0 |
| **Patriots** | **564** | **352** | **4322** | **28** | **15** |
| **Opponents** | **527** | **296** | **3926** | **25** | **10** |

**SACKS**

Colvin 7, McGinest 6, Vrabel 4.5, Seymour 4, Green 2.5, Bruschi 2, Warren 1.5, Beisel 1, Chatham 1, Hawkins 1, Poteat 1, Banta-Cain 0.5, Klecko 0.5, Wilfork 0.5

**Patriots 33, Opponents 28**


MATT LIGHT, LT

ROB TRINGALI / SPORTSCHROME

who struggled terribly in 2005 after setting a club record with 1,635 rushing yards in '04, his first season with the team. Last year, with calf and ankle injuries slowing him and few holes to run through, Dillon gained only 773 yards and averaged just 3.5 yards a carry. He trained rigorously through the offseason, including running through sand dunes to strengthen those battered lower legs. If he can't hold up, top pick Laurence Maroney will get more snaps early.

Dan Koppen will be back at center and he's pinned in by solid guards in Logan Mankins, the No. 1 pick a year ago, on the left side and Stephen Neal, a former college wrestler, on the right. This group should be able to get enough push off the ball to allow Dillon to run inside, though he'll still be effective attacking the perimeter. At left tackle, Matt Light will try to hold off Nick Kaczur, another second-year player who got a lot of snaps as a rookie. Brandon Gorin is on the right side.

The Patriots are not as stacked at tight end as they once were. Daniel Graham starts and Benjamin Watson will also play, but Christian Fauria left as a free agent. Graham is starting to become the complete package and blocks the run downfield very well.

The Patriots brought back Troy Brown, 35, for one more go, but he is not the receiver he once was. Second-round pick Chad Jackson might be a find and could work his way into the starting lineup quickly. Otherwise, it's Caldwell, in whom the Patriots must see what the Chargers did not, and Branch. They will need big contributions from Bethel Johnson, a deep threat but not a consistent receiver. This is an area the Patriots may look to address with a veteran player later on.

Seems like we've forgotten to mention someone. Could it be Tom Brady, the three-time Pro Bowler? With the running game down and the defense in dire straits the first half of the season, Brady simply held the Patriots together and kept them contending. He finished with 4,110 passing yards and 26 touchdown passes, and he's only the second quarterback in club history to crack 4,000 yards. When the Patriots need to make a play, they can look to Brady to supply it.

He's more than just good. He's good all the time. Brady has thrown at least one touchdown pass in 37 of his last 40 games and the Patriots have won 59 of his 78 career starts. Give him a sound Dillon and a little cohesion in the offensive line, and the Patriots should be ready to roll on offense.

Defensively, the front seven again seems solid, but the question marks in the secondary are troubling. Injuries and attrition have been damaging and stopgaps like Duane Starks proved costly and ineffective.

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Patriots)*

"The glory years are over. They lost a lot of players on defense. Now they've got a chance because the young players they have drafted have performed. They're still good on defense, even though they lost Willie McGinest and some others who fit into their scheme. They've got a young Ty Warren, a young Vince Wilfork, Richard Seymour is still a young guy. They've got corner issues, but they had corner issues even when they won championships. ...

"Tom Brady is Tom Brady. Corey Dillon was hurt some but he wasn't as productive or as effective as he was the year before. Losing David Givens isn't going to hurt them; they've got some weapons outside. I think they've got some offensive-line issues as far as keeping people healthy. I still think they are the team to beat in the division. Miami was in their rearview mirror, but now Miami is on their bumper."

Up front, the Patriots are fierce. Seymour plays end in the 3-4 and moves inside when the Pats play a four-man line. He's dangerous in either place. Ty Warren, the left end, continues to improve. Vince Wilfork is becoming a space-eater as the nose tackle and the versatile Dan Klecko, who has played linebacker and fullback, backs him up. Jarvis Green is a solid situational pass rusher and the Pats still have hopes for Marquise Hill.

The linebacking corps loses McGinest and is starting to age. Mike Vrabel could start in McGinest's outside spot or stay inside. Bruschi anchors the inside. Rosevelt Colvin played well last year as the other outside 'backer.

If Rodney Harrison makes it all the way back from his knee injury, the Patriots will still have a dangerous hammer to swing at strong safety. But Harrison will be 34 before the season ends and he has dished out an awful lot of punishment over the years. The Pats have tried to insure themselves against the worst by signing free agents Mel Mitchell and Jones, who was once a No. 1 pick of theirs. An early New England depth chart listed five players at strong safety, beginning with Harrison.

Harrison and Eugene Wilson at free safety make a nice tandem and take a lot of pressure off cornerbacks who are somewhat less accomplished. Asante Samuel can play and Ellis Hobbs' biggest problem is youth and inexperience, though he sure got experienced quickly last year in the face of so many injuries.

There's some veteran depth in the secondary, with Randall Gay, Chad Scott, Eric Warfield and Hank Poteat. Warfield had been a starter with the Kansas City Chiefs and could be a solidifying factor.

If there's an area of concern, it's the kicking game. Gramatica looked done two years ago when he fell apart in Tampa Bay and got a short look in Indianapolis. The Patriots are so accustomed to Vinatieri stepping up and calmly banging winning field goals through the uprights without any self-indulgence. Gramatica is temperamental and far more inclined to be self-aggrandizing. This will be an interesting adjustment.

The Pats still have enough front-line players to stave off a challenge from the Miami Dolphins. It won't be easy. But it will be fun to watch and see if the dynasty is on the way out or on the way back in.

COURTESY NFL

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Martin Gramatica**, K (None)
- **Reche Caldwell**, WR (SD)
- **Tebucky Jones**, DB (MIA)
- **Mel Mitchell**, DB (NO)
- **Eric Warfield**, CB (KC)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Willie McGinest**, LB (CLE)
- **Andre Davis**, WR (BUF)
- **Christian Fauria**, TE (WAS)
- **David Givens**, WR (TEN)
- **Adam Vinatieri**, K (IND)
- **Tyrone Poole**, DB (OAK)
- **Tim Dwight**, WR (NYJ)
- **Tom Ashworth**, OT (SEA)
- **Matt Chatham**, LB (NYJ)
- **Duane Starks**, CB (OAK)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 352.0 | 7 |
| Rushing | 94.5 | 24 |
| Passing | 257.5 | 2 |
| Scoring | 379 | 10 |
| Punt Returns | 7.9 | 16 |
| Kick Returns | 22.2 | 14t |
| Red Zone TD % | 63.8 | 3t |
| Total Defense | 330.2 | 26 |
| Against Rush | 98.8 | 8 |
| Against Pass | 231.4 | 31 |
| Points Allowed | 338 | 17 |
| Interceptions | 10 | 26t |
| Sacks | 33 | 23 |
| Turnover Diff. | -6 | 20t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 334 | 101 | 204 | 29 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 58 | 301 | 37 | 15 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | 28 | 0 | 2 |

## PATRIOTS ROSTER

**Bill Belichick, head coach**; **Joel Collier**, secondary asst.; **Brian Daboll**, wide receivers; **Ivan Fears**, running backs; **Pepper Johnson**, def. line; **Pete Mangurian**, tight ends; **Josh McDaniels**, off. coord.; **Matt Patricia**, off. line asst.; **Dean Pees**, def. coord.; **Dante Scarnecchia**, asst. head coach/off. line; **Brad Seely**, special teams

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | Brady, Tom | QB | 6-4 | 225 | 08/03/1977 | 6 | Michigan |
| 16 | Cassel, Matt | QB | 6-5 | 230 | 05/17/1982 | 1 | USC |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 65 | Britt, Wesley | T | 6-8 | 314 | 11/21/1981 | 0 | Alabama |
| 76 | Gorin, Brandon | T | 6-6 | 308 | 07/17/1978 | 3 | Purdue |
| 71 | Hochstein, Russ | G | 6-4 | 305 | 10/07/1977 | 4 | Nebraska |
| 77 | Kaczur, Nick | T | 6-4 | 319 | 07/28/1979 | 1 | Toledo |
| 67 | Koppen, Dan | C | 6-2 | 296 | 09/12/1979 | 3 | Boston College |
| 72 | Light, Matt | T | 6-4 | 305 | 06/23/1978 | 5 | Purdue |
| 70 | Mankins, Logan | G | 6-4 | 307 | 03/10/1982 | 1 | Fresno State |
| 64 | Mruczkowski, Gene | G | 6-2 | 305 | 06/06/1980 | 2 | Purdue |
| 61 | Neal, Stephen | G | 6-4 | 305 | 10/09/1976 | 3 | Cal St. Bakersfield |
| 66 | Paxton, Lonie | C | 6-2 | 260 | 03/13/1978 | 6 | Sacramento State |
| 69 | Tucker, Ross | G | 6-4 | 316 | 03/02/1979 | 5 | Princeton |
| 74 | Yates, Billy | G | 6-2 | 305 | 04/15/1980 | 2 | Texas A&M |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 28 | Dillon, Corey | RB | 6-1 | 225 | 10/24/1974 | 9 | Washington |
| 44 | Evans, Heath | RB | 6-0 | 250 | 12/30/1978 | 5 | Auburn |
| 33 | Faulk, Kevin | RB | 5-8 | 202 | 06/05/1976 | 7 | LSU |
| 35 | Pass, Patrick | RB | 5-10 | 217 | 12/31/1977 | 6 | Georgia |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 83 | Branch, Deion | WR | 5-9 | 193 | 07/18/1979 | 4 | Louisville |
| 80 | Brown, Troy | WR | 5-10 | 196 | 07/02/1971 | 13 | Marshall |
| 87 | Caldwell, Reche | WR | 6-0 | 215 | 03/28/1979 | 4 | Florida |
| 13 | Childress, Brandon | WR | 5-10 | 185 | 03/31/1982 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 82 | Graham, Daniel | TE | 6-3 | 257 | 11/16/1978 | 4 | Colorado |
| 81 | Johnson, Bethel | WR | 5-11 | 200 | 02/11/1979 | 3 | Texas A&M |
| 19 | Smith, Zuriel | WR | 5-11 | 175 | 01/15/1980 | 1 | Hampton |
| 15 | Stone, John | WR | 5-11 | 180 | 07/07/1979 | 2 | Wake Forest |
| 84 | Watson, Ben | TE | 6-3 | 253 | 12/18/1980 | 2 | Georgia |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 97 | Green, Jarvis | DE | 6-3 | 290 | 01/12/1979 | 4 | LSU |
| 91 | Hill, Marquise | DE | 6-6 | 300 | 08/07/1982 | 2 | LSU |
| 90 | Klecko, Dan | DT | 5-11 | 275 | 01/12/1981 | 3 | Temple |
| 93 | Seymour, Richard | DT | 6-6 | 310 | 10/06/1979 | 5 | Georgia |
| 92 | Thomas, Santonio | DT | 6-4 | 308 | 07/02/1981 | 0 | Miami (FL) |
| 94 | Warren, Ty | DT | 6-5 | 300 | 02/06/1981 | 3 | Texas A&M |
| 75 | Wilfork, Vince | DT | 6-2 | 325 | 11/04/1981 | 2 | Miami (FL) |
| 99 | Wright, Mike | DT | 6-4 | 295 | 03/01/1982 | 1 | Cincinnati |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 21 | Gay, Randall | CB | 5-11 | 186 | 05/05/1982 | 2 | LSU |
| 37 | Harrison, Rodney | S | 6-1 | 220 | 12/15/1972 | 12 | Western Illinois |
| 25 | Hawkins, Artrell | CB | 5-10 | 190 | 11/24/1976 | 8 | Cincinnati |
| 27 | Hobbs, Ellis | CB | 5-9 | 188 | 05/16/1983 | 1 | Iowa State |
| 24 | Jones, Tebucky | S | 6-2 | 218 | 10/06/1974 | 8 | Syracuse |
| 40 | Mitchell, Mel | S | 6-1 | 222 | 02/10/1979 | 3 | Western Kentucky |
| 32 | Poteat, Hank | CB | 5-10 | 192 | 08/30/1977 | 5 | Pittsburgh |
| 22 | Samuel, Asante | CB | 5-10 | 185 | 01/06/1981 | 3 | UCF |
| 36 | Sanders, James | S | 5-10 | 207 | 11/11/1983 | 1 | Fresno State |
| 30 | Scott, Chad | CB | 6-1 | 202 | 09/06/1974 | 8 | Maryland |
| 29 | Scott, Guss | S | 5-10 | 205 | 05/21/1982 | 1 | Florida |
| 38 | Spann, Antwain | CB | 6-0 | 185 | 02/22/1983 | 0 | La.-Lafayette |
| 41 | Ventrone, Raymond | S | 5-10 | 200 | 10/21/1982 | 0 | Villanova |
| 44 | Warfield, Eric | CB | 6-0 | 200 | 03/03/1976 | 8 | Nebraska |
| 26 | Wilson, Eugene | S | 5-10 | 195 | 08/17/1980 | 3 | Illinois |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 49 | Alexander, Eric | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 02/08/1982 | 2 | LSU |
| 95 | Banta-Cain, Tully | LB | 6-2 | 250 | 08/28/1980 | 3 | California |
| 52 | Beisel, Monty | LB | 6-3 | 238 | 08/20/1978 | 5 | Kansas State |
| 54 | Bruschi, Tedy | LB | 6-1 | 247 | 06/09/1973 | 10 | Arizona |
| 59 | Colvin, Rosevelt | LB | 6-3 | 250 | 09/05/1977 | 7 | Purdue |
| 51 | Davis, Don | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 12/17/1972 | 10 | Kansas |
| 53 | Izzo, Larry | LB | 5-10 | 228 | 09/26/1974 | 9 | Rice |
| 50 | Vrabel, Mike | LB | 6-4 | 261 | 08/14/1975 | 9 | Ohio State |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 10 | Gramatica, Martin | K | 5-8 | 170 | 11/27/1975 | 6 | Kansas State |
| 8 | Miller, Josh | P | 6-4 | 225 | 07/14/1970 | 10 | Arizona |

2005 RECORD: 9-7 | www.miamidolphins.com

# MIAMI DOLPHINS

AFC EAST #2

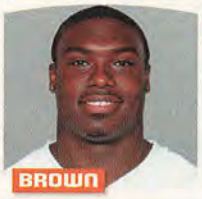
DOLPHINS STADIUM
CAPACITY: 74,916 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 305-620-2578

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 3 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 3 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| LINEBACKERS | 4 |
| SECONDARY | 3 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 4 |
| MANAGEMENT | 5 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Daunte Culpepper | LE | Kevin Carter | P | Donnie Jones |
| FB | Sammy Morris | LT | Manuel Wright | PR | Wes Welker |
| RB | Ronnie Brown | RT | Vonnie Holliday | K | Olindo Mare |
| LT | L.J. Shelton | RE | Jason Taylor | KR | Wes Welker |
| LG | Jeno James | LLB | Donnie Spragan | | |
| C | Seth McKinney | MLB | Zach Thomas | | |
| RG | Rex Hadnot | RLB | Channing Crowder | | |
| RT | Vernon Carey | LCB | Travis Daniels | | |
| TE | Randy McMichael | RCB | Will Allen | | |
| WR | Marty Booker | SS | Renaldo Hill | | |
| WR | Chris Chambers | FS | Deke Cooper | | |




**ON THE RISE**

**RONNIE BROWN**
running back
Will shoulder more of the load this year and emerge as a 1,200-yard back.

**FADING FAST**

**RICKY WILLIAMS**
running back
Rallied nicely last year, but is suspended for this season after failing his second NFL drug test.

# Moving forward with purpose

Ricky Williams' one-year suspension may slow the Dolphins' momentum ever so slightly, but Nick Saban's disciplined approach has Miami positioned to challenge the Patriots.

The snowbirds fly south for the winter. Usually the Miami Dolphins beat them to it.

They've not been in the playoffs since the 2001 season, nor have they won the AFC East since 2000. Not a good millennium so far.

But it's getting better.

Make what you will of last season's six-game winning streak at the end. Make what you will of that sudden turn that enabled the Dolphins to finish 9-7 and in second place in the division. Sure, New England didn't give quite everything it had in that season finale in which the Dolphins nipped the Patriots 28-26. And of the five other wins, only one (at San Diego) was against a team with a winning record.

But, hey, wins are wins. They are the bricks with which to build confidence and the foundation of a program.

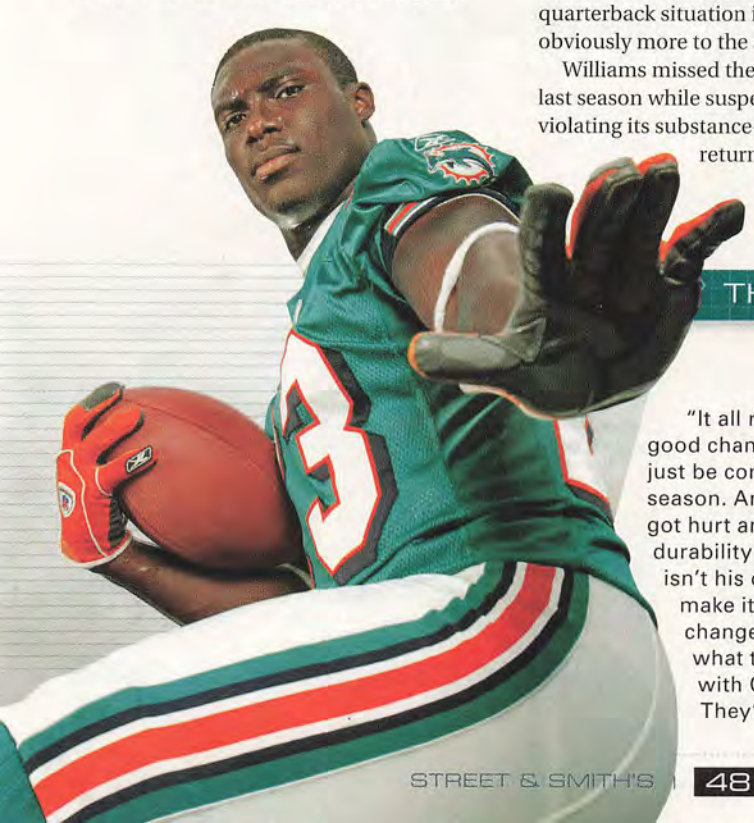
Nick Saban's second year as coach begins in some ways the way his first did. He won't have Ricky Williams and the quarterback situation is uncertain. There's obviously more to the story than that.

Williams missed the first four games of last season while suspended by the NFL for violating its substance-abuse policy, but returned to be a force. He ran for 743 yards and a club-high six touchdowns and stepped it up at the end of the season when rookie Ronnie Brown had ankle problems. He ran for 172 yards against Tennessee and 108 the next week against the Patriots and was voted the most cooperative Dolphin (since Flipper) by the local media.

That the club accepted him so readily after the way he bailed on them with his stunning retirement on the eve of training camp in 2004 was a testament to Saban's ability to make the team see the big picture and understand Williams' value. Unfortunately, that effort has now gone for no good purpose.

This time Williams, who failed another drug test, is suspended for the year. No late-season surge, no bailing-out the worn-down youngster. Don't expect veterans like Sammy Morris and Travis Minor to be able to shoulder any part of the load in the manner that Williams did.

Last season, the Dolphins went into training camp with Gus Frerotte dueling A.J. Feeley for the quarterback job. Frerotte won out and Feeley was eventually traded to San Diego. Now Frerotte is gone, joining



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## THE BOOK ON ... RONNIE BROWN

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"It all revolves around him. He's athletic, he's got good balance and good change-of-direction and he can catch the ball. Good player. I would just be concerned about him as a 25-30-carry guy and lasting the whole season. And that's based on what happened his rookie year, when he got hurt and missed the last couple of games. I don't think he has the durability to go 16 games if [Daunte] Culpepper isn't ready to play or isn't his old self and with Ricky Williams suspended again. He didn't make it through the entire season last year and I don't think that will change. They need a one-two punch that they don't have now. I think what they will do is what Jon Gruden did in Tampa Bay last year with Cadillac Williams, and they'll ride Ronnie until he breaks down. They've got to have somebody to spell Ronnie."

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; TOM DIPACE

### FACT

Miami's six-game winning streak to close last season is the seventh longest in team history and the longest since 1992, when the Dolphins won six in a row to begin the year.

### STAT

Wide receiver Chris Chambers' 15 catches for 238 yards against Buffalo in Week 13 were the highest single-game totals in team history.

### LOOK IT UP

Jason Taylor's 85-yard fumble return for a touchdown against Denver in Week One was the longest in Dolphins' history, and gave Taylor five career fumble returns for touchdowns, tying him with Jessie Tuggle for the most in NFL history.

### 5-YEAR WINS

### DOLPHINS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **DON SHULA** (26 YEARS)
   **Record with Dolphins:** 274-147-2
2. **JIMMY JOHNSON** (4 YEARS)
   **Record with Dolphins:** 38-31
3. **NICK SABAN** (1 YEAR)
   **Record with Dolphins:** 9-7

### THE COUNT

**76**
Jason Taylor's sack total since 2000, second best in the NFL behind Michael Strahan (77).

**132**
Penalties committed by Miami in 2005, most in team history.

**2,456**
Randy McMichael's career receiving yards, a franchise record for Miami tight ends.

former Miami offensive coordinator and new Rams Head Coach Scott Linehan in St. Louis. The heir to this shaky throne: Daunte Culpepper.

This NFL can be strange at times. The Dolphins had traded a second-round pick to Philadelphia to get Feeley, a lifelong backup. Then they traded a second-round pick to Minnesota to get Culpepper, a former Pro Bowl pick who wanted desperately to get away from the Vikings. Maybe that torn-up knee held his value down just a bit.

There's no question he needed a fresh start after the Vikings fell apart last year. Culpepper had a great preseason but never got it going when the games really counted. He missed Randy Moss and Nate Burleson, who was expected to emerge as the No. 1 receiver but was hurt and proved to be no factor. The Vikings' lack of an experienced offensive coordinator also hurt Culpepper. He never got off on the right foot with the new Minnesota coach, Brad Childress, and finally the Vikings got rid of him.

The Dolphins were also working to acquire Joey Harrington from the Detroit Lions. He would be good insurance if a trade can be worked out.

Miami's offense will revolve around these two poles: Culpepper and Brown. Until the former gets his legs underneath him, learns to trust the damaged limb and develops a comfort level with a new passing game, the Dolphins will find themselves relying heavily on Brown. They will run the ball and play superb defense and use that simple formula to build on last year's late success.

The offensive line that will block for Brown and protect Culpepper could see a few tweaks. The Dolphins did not seem inclined to bring back starting left tackle Damion McIntosh, but they did. And they also signed free agent L.J. Shelton. If Shelton starts, he could bump McIntosh to

## DRAFT REPORT

The Dolphins have been focused on upgrading the secondary this offseason and it continued in the draft with the selection of **Jason Allen**. Allen is a top-notch athlete who can be tried initially at cornerback but will eventually settle into one of the safety positions. The second-round pick was sent to Minnesota for quarterback Daunte Culpepper. **Derek Hagan** was an extremely productive receiver at Arizona State but dropped to the third round after showing inconsistent hands at the Senior Bowl. **Joe Toledo**, a former tight end, played just one season of tackle at Washington. With age starting to become a concern along their defensive line, the Dolphins added **Fred Evans** and **Rodrique Wright** in the final round. Evans was a Division I-AA standout, while Wright slipped some due to a rotator-cuff injury uncovered in medical tests at the Combine. **Devin Aromashodu** has size and speed and could develop into a solid No. 3 receiver. Factoring in the Culpepper trade, this was a solid draft and will help the team make a significant step up in the standings.

**GRADE: A-**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 16 | Allen, Jason | CB | 6-1 | 208 | Tennessee |
| 3 | 18 | Hagan, Derek | WR | 6-2 | 209 | Arizona State |
| 4 | 17 | Toledo, Joe | T | 6-5 | 337 | Washington |
| 7 | 4 | Evans, Fred | DT | 6-5 | 285 | Texas State |
| 7 | 18 | Wright, Rodrique | DT | 6-5 | 306 | Texas |
| 7 | 25 | Aromashodu, Devin | WR | 6-2 | 202 | Auburn |

### HE SAID IT:

**With the players we have right now, we've got a great opportunity to [be] a good football team, to even be a great football team. ... Everybody just needs to file in line and get to work. I'm very excited about what we can do—right now, not two or three years later.**
*—Daunte Culpepper on his new team*

## 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 1** @ Pittsburgh | SEPT. 7 | 8:30 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 2** vs. Buffalo | SEPT. 17 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 3** vs. Tennessee | SEPT. 24 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 4** @ Houston | OCT. 1 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 5** @ New England | OCT. 8 | 1:00 |
| ★ MUST-SEE GAME ★ | | |
| *Any Belichick-Saban chess match should be worth watching* | | |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 6** @ New York Jets | OCT. 15 | 4:15 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 7** vs. Green Bay | OCT. 22 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 8** *OPEN DATE* | | |
| **WEEK 9** @ Chicago | NOV. 5 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 10** vs. Kansas City | NOV. 12 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 11** vs. Minnesota | NOV. 19 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 12** @ Detroit | NOV. 23 | 12:30 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 13** vs. Jacksonville | DEC. 3 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 14** vs. New England | DEC. 10 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 15** @ Buffalo | DEC. 17 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 16** vs. New York Jets | DEC. 25 | 8:30 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 17** @ Indianapolis | DEC. 31 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | W | 34-10 | Denver |
| 09/18 | L | 7-17 | at New York Jets |
| 09/25 | W | 27-24 | Carolina |
| 10/09 | L | 14-20 | at Buffalo |
| 10/16 | L | 13-27 | at Tampa Bay |
| 10/21 | L | 20-30 | Kansas City |
| 10/30 | W | 21-6 | at New Orleans |
| 11/06 | L | 10-17 | Atlanta |
| 11/13 | L | 16-23 | New England |
| 11/20 | L | 0-22 | at Cleveland |
| 11/27 | W | 33-21 | at Oakland |
| 12/04 | W | 24-23 | Buffalo |
| 12/11 | W | 23-21 | at San Diego |
| 12/18 | W | 24-20 | New York Jets |
| 12/24 | W | 24-10 | Tennessee |
| 01/01 | W | 28-26 | at New England |

WON **9**, LOST **7**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brown | 207 | 907 | 4.4 | 65t | 4 |
| Williams | 168 | 743 | 4.4 | 35 | 6 |
| Chambers | 12 | 92 | 7.7 | 61 | 0 |
| Frerotte | 27 | 61 | 2.3 | 14 | 0 |
| Morris | 16 | 58 | 3.6 | 9t | 1 |
| Minor | 5 | 17 | 3.4 | 9 | 0 |
| Rosenfels | 6 | 15 | 2.5 | 12 | 0 |
| Welker | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| Evans | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jones | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Dolphins** | **444** | **1898** | **4.3** | **65t** | **11** |
| **Opponents** | **480** | **1771** | **3.7** | **75t** | **11** |

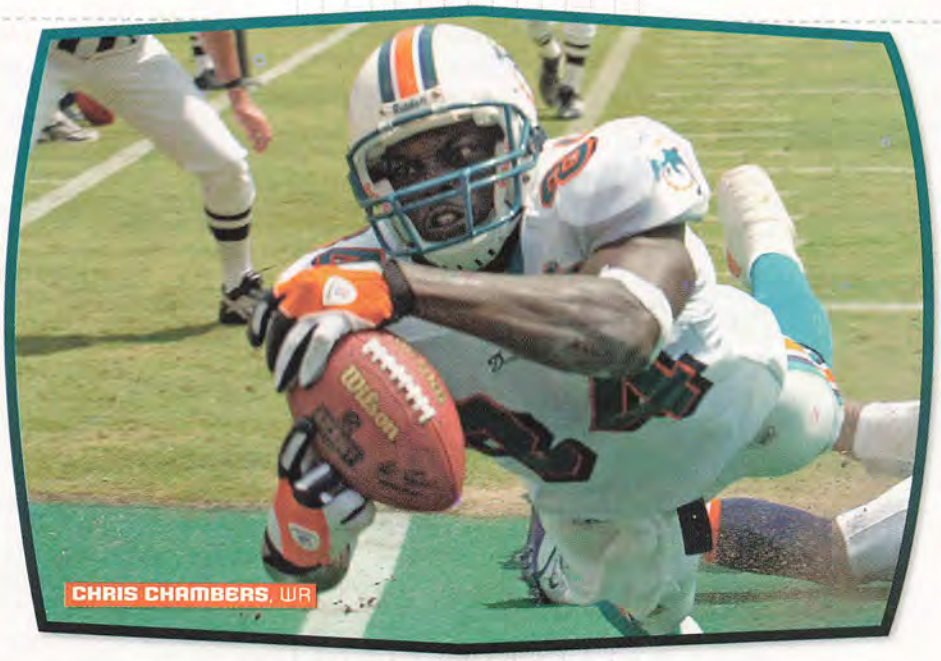
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chambers | 82 | 1118 | 13.6 | 77t | 11 |
| McMichael | 60 | 582 | 9.7 | 30t | 5 |
| Booker | 39 | 686 | 17.6 | 60t | 3 |
| Brown | 32 | 232 | 7.3 | 38 | 1 |
| Welker | 29 | 434 | 15.0 | 47 | 0 |
| Williams | 17 | 93 | 5.5 | 19 | 0 |
| Diamond | 8 | 54 | 6.8 | 18 | 0 |
| Morris | 8 | 54 | 6.8 | 18 | 0 |
| Gilmore | 5 | 105 | 21.0 | 44t | 1 |
| Boston | 4 | 80 | 20.0 | 54 | 0 |
| Evans | 4 | 17 | 4.3 | 5 | 0 |
| Heller | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1t | 1 |
| Holmes | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Minor | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Dolphins** | **291** | **3458** | **11.9** | **77t** | **22** |
| **Opponents** | **323** | **3682** | **11.4** | **60t** | **23** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Frerotte | 494 | 257 | 2996 | 18 | 13 |
| Rosenfels | 61 | 34 | 462 | 4 | 3 |
| Booker | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Dolphins** | **556** | **291** | **3458** | **22** | **16** |
| **Opponents** | **549** | **323** | **3682** | **23** | **14** |

**SACKS**

Taylor 12, Bowens 6, Carter 6, Holliday 5, Bell 3, Howard 2, T. Jones 2, Schulters 2, Z. Thomas 2, Traylor 2, Zgonina 2, Roth 1, Seau 1, Spragan 1, Wright 1

**Dolphins 49, Opponents 26**



CHRIS CHAMBERS, WR

DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

the other side. That would mean the much-moved Vernon Carey would have to move again and the best thing for him would be to stay in one position long enough to learn how to play it.

If Carey goes inside to guard, Rex Hadnot and Seth McKinney will duke it out at center. McKinney started the first 13 games last season at center before going on injured reserve.

Look at it another way: Depth along the offensive line is not the worst problem to have.

Culpepper will find himself with two very good targets. Chris Chambers is coming into his own as a go-to guy and caught 11 touchdown passes last season. He broke out in the fifth year of his pro career with 1,118 yards (his first time over 1,000) and his TD catches tied his career best. Tight end Randy McMichael is the guy Culpepper will look for on shorter routes over the middle, much the way he relied on Jermaine Wiggins in Minnesota. McMichael won't bust big plays but he will produce first downs.

Depth is an issue at receiver. Marty Booker is a journeyman and no one quite knows what to make of David Boston at this point in his career. Rookie Derek Hagan will get a long look. If somebody can emerge as an extra threat, Culpepper's chances of sitting in the pocket instead of scrambling will be much better.

Miami's defense ranked 18th in the league last year and is in the process of shedding some of the old standbys. They let Patrick Surtain go a year ago and this offseason saw Sam Madison's departure and free agent Will Allen's arrival, completing a makeover at cornerback. The new kid to watch is No. 1 pick Jason Allen. He'll get an opportunity to compete with Travis Daniels to win Madison's old job on the left side, but he has also played safety and could be very comfortable there. The caution here: Allen missed more than half of last season at Tennessee with a dislocated hip and has not been in pads since October.

The strength of the defense, however, lies in the front seven. Jason Taylor, at right end, remains a top pass rusher. He led the club with 12 sacks last year. On the other side, Kevin Carter played surprisingly well and added six sacks. Look for Manny Wright, who had a difficult rookie season, to move into Keith Traylor's spot on the nose. Vonnie Holliday,

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Dolphins)*

"We played them early in the year and if you would have told me they'd end up 9-7, I would not have thought that would be possible. But they closed the season strong and obviously Nick Saban is a good coach. His team didn't buy in early, but they're buying in now and now he's getting his type of player. ...

"They're going to be a real good defensive team. They're going to play smart and they're not going to beat themselves. They will make you earn everything you get. ...

"Tell me how [Daunte] Culpepper is going to play. I have doubts the first eight games that he will be who he was, so that's an issue. ... They need another wideout, in my opinion, but Chris Chambers is the guy. The offensive line needs to be shored up. If they can go 9-7 again, then next year is time to watch out."

who came into the league as a defensive end, held up well at tackle.

This line was very durable, in part because the Dolphins rotate players inside. The only starter who did not start all 16 games was Traylor. There's good depth here with role players such as Jeff Zgonina, David Bowens and Matt Roth all taking turns.

Channing Crowder started 13 games as a rookie after Junior Seau went out with an injury. With Seau gone, the position is now all his. Zach Thomas remains an active tackler in the middle, though he may start losing a little range in his 11th season. Donnie Spragan should hang on to the strongside position.

With the free-agent departure of Lance Schulters, veteran Renaldo Hill will likely pair with Travares Tillman or Deke Cooper at safety until Jason Allen is deemed ready to step in.

Kicker Olindo Mare remains effective. His struggles last year came in the 30-39-yard range, where he made nine of 12 tries. He had a long field goal of 53 yards.

Punter Donnie Jones booted the ball 88 times last year, most in the AFC. The Dolphins will be comforted if their offense moves the ball better and Jones is on the field less. Jones was helpful to the defense, however, with 31 punts landing inside the 20.

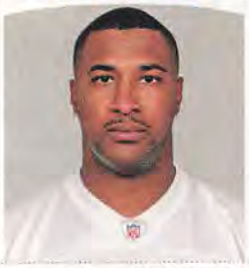
If a fan had to root for only one Dolphin, it might well be Wes Welker. A part-time receiver, he also plays on coverage teams and returns both punts and kickoffs. In a pinch, he can also be the kicker. Few NFL players do more things than Welker.

Saban broke into the NFL as an assistant under Bill Belichick in Cleveland and he shares similar philosophies. The organization speaks with one voice and it is Saban's. It is the voice of confidence and purpose and direction. There is no point in debating who makes the decisions.

He understands how to build a team. He thrives on directing every part of the process. He does not brook dissent. This is his way. As he assembles the people, Saban gets more parts that understand exactly how he wants things done.

The Dolphins may be a chic pick to catch the Patriots in the AFC East this season. Maybe they can. Whether they do or don't, they are a team on the move and they're heading in the right direction under the right guy.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS



- **Daunte Culpepper**, QB (trade, MIN)
- **Andre Goodman**, CB (DET)
- **Sedrick Hodge**, LB (NO)
- **Will Allen**, CB (NYG)
- **Fred Beasley**, FB (SF)
- **Kelly Campbell**, WR (MIN)
- **Justin Peelle**, TE (SD)
- **L.J. Shelton**, OT (CLE)
- **Renaldo Hill**, DB (OAK)
- **Deke Cooper**, DB (JAX)
- **Mike Pearson**, OT (JAX)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Sage Rosenfels**, QB (HOU)
- **Sam Madison**, CB (NYG)
- **Bryan Gilmore**, WR (SF)
- **Reggie Howard**, CB (CAR)
- **Matt Turk**, P (STL)
- **Gus Frerotte**, QB (STL)
- **Kiwaukee Thomas**, DB (BUF)
- **Tebucky Jones**, DB (NE)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 324.9 | 14 |
| Rushing | 118.6 | 12 |
| Passing | 206.2 | 16 |
| Scoring | 318 | 16 |
| Punt Returns | 9.1 | 9t |
| Kick Returns | 22.1 | 16t |
| Red Zone TD % | 40.4 | 26 |
| Total Defense | 317.4 | 18 |
| Against Rush | 110.7 | 17 |
| Against Pass | 206.7 | 20 |
| Points Allowed | 317 | 15 |
| Interceptions | 14 | 23 |
| Sacks | 49 | 2 |
| Turnover Diff. | +1 | 14t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 274 | 93 | 159 | 22 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 52 | 200 | 21 | 18 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | 22 | 0 | 1 |

## DOLPHINS ROSTER

**Nick Saban, head coach**; **Keith Armstrong**, special teams; **Charlie Baggett**, asst. head coach/wide receivers; **Tim Davis**, asst. off. line; **Derek Dooley**, tight ends; **George Edwards**, linebackers; **Jason Garrett**, quarterbacks; **Hudson Houck**, off. line; **Travis Jones**, asst. def. line; **Mike Mularkey**, off. coord.; **Mel Phillips**, secondary; **Dan Quinn**, def. line; **Patrick Suddes**, def. asst.; **Bobby Williams**, running backs

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | Culpepper, Daunte | QB | 6-4 | 260 | 01/28/1977 | 7 | UCF |
| 17 | Lemon, Cleo | QB | 6-2 | 215 | 08/16/1979 | 1 | Arkansas State |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 79 | Alabi, Anthony | T | 6-5 | 315 | 02/16/1981 | 0 | TCU |
| 65 | Berger, Joe | T | 6-5 | 290 | 05/25/1982 | 1 | Michigan Tech |
| 69 | Brooks, C.J. | G | 6-5 | 310 | 08/21/1982 | 0 | Maryland |
| 72 | Carey, Vernon | T | 6-5 | 335 | 07/31/1981 | 2 | Miami (FL) |
| 63 | Ephraim, Alonzo | C | 6-4 | 312 | 11/09/1981 | 3 | Alabama |
| 66 | Hadnot, Rex | C | 6-2 | 325 | 01/28/1982 | 2 | Houston |
| 78 | James, Jeno | G | 6-4 | 320 | 01/12/1977 | 6 | Auburn |
| 77 | McIntosh, Damion | T | 6-4 | 320 | 03/25/1977 | 6 | Kansas State |
| 68 | McKinney, Seth | C | 6-3 | 310 | 06/12/1979 | 4 | Texas A&M |
| 73 | Pape, Tony | T | 6-6 | 310 | 09/29/1981 | 0 | Michigan |
| 71 | Pearson, Mike | T | 6-7 | 297 | 08/22/1980 | 4 | Florida |
| 70 | Shelton, L.J. | T | 6-6 | 345 | 03/21/1976 | 7 | Eastern Michigan |
| 74 | Smith, Wade | T | 6-4 | 315 | 04/26/1981 | 2 | Memphis |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 36 | Barnes, Darian | RB | 6-2 | 241 | 02/28/1980 | 4 | Hampton |
| 40 | Beasley, Fred | RB | 6-0 | 246 | 09/18/1974 | 8 | Auburn |
| 23 | Brown, Ronnie | RB | 6-0 | 232 | 12/12/1981 | 1 | Auburn |
| 43 | Harris, Kay-Jay | RB | 6-1 | 240 | 03/27/1979 | 0 | West Virginia |
| 28 | Minor, Travis | RB | 5-10 | 203 | 06/30/1979 | 5 | Florida State |
| 31 | Morris, Sammy | RB | 6-0 | 218 | 03/23/1977 | 6 | Texas Tech |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 86 | Booker, Marty | WR | 6-0 | 210 | 07/31/1976 | 7 | Louisiana-Monroe |
| 80 | Campbell, Kelly | WR | 5-10 | 171 | 07/23/1980 | 3 | Georgia Tech |
| 84 | Chambers, Chris | WR | 5-11 | 210 | 08/12/1978 | 5 | Wisconsin |
| 16 | Davis, Chris | WR | 6-0 | 182 | 10/09/1981 | 0 | Southern |
| 18 | Gibson, Fred | WR | 6-4 | 202 | 10/26/1981 | 0 | Georgia |
| 47 | Johnson, Teyo | TE | 6-6 | 260 | 11/29/1981 | 3 | Stanford |
| 81 | McMichael, Randy | TE | 6-3 | 235 | 06/28/1979 | 4 | Georgia |
| 87 | Peelle, Justin | TE | 6-4 | 255 | 03/15/1979 | 4 | Oregon |
| 41 | Rader, Jason | TE | 6-4 | 274 | 04/12/1981 | 0 | Marshall |
| 88 | Russell, Cliff | WR | 5-11 | 193 | 02/08/1979 | 3 | Utah |
| 83 | Welker, Wes | WR | 5-9 | 185 | 05/01/1981 | 2 | Texas Tech |
| 14 | Willis, Jason | WR | 6-1 | 196 | 07/26/1980 | 1 | Oregon |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 96 | Bowens, David | DE | 6-3 | 265 | 07/03/1977 | 7 | Western Illinois |
| 93 | Carter, Kevin | DE | 6-6 | 305 | 09/21/1973 | 11 | Florida |
| 97 | Denney, John | DE | 6-5 | 270 | 12/13/1978 | 1 | Brigham Young |
| 91 | Holliday, Vonnie | DE | 6-5 | 288 | 12/11/1975 | 8 | North Carolina |
| 98 | Roth, Matt | DE | 6-4 | 272 | 10/14/1982 | 1 | Iowa |
| 76 | Shaw, Josh | DT | 6-2 | 290 | 09/07/1979 | 2 | Michigan State |
| 99 | Taylor, Jason | DE | 6-6 | 255 | 09/01/1974 | 9 | Akron |
| 61 | Thompson, Orrin | DT | 6-6 | 315 | 11/11/1982 | 0 | Duke |
| 94 | Traylor, Keith | DT | 6-2 | 337 | 09/03/1969 | 14 | Central Oklahoma |
| 64 | Van Hoy, Chris | DT | 6-4 | 308 | 03/24/1982 | 0 | Louisiana Tech |
| 75 | Wright, Manuel | DT | 6-6 | 329 | 04/13/1984 | 1 | USC |
| 90 | Zgonina, Jeff | DT | 6-2 | 290 | 05/24/1970 | 13 | Purdue |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 25 | Allen, Will | CB | 5-10 | 196 | 08/05/1978 | 5 | Syracuse |
| 37 | Bell, Yeremiah | S | 6-0 | 200 | 03/03/1978 | 2 | Eastern Kentucky |
| 35 | Cooper, Deke | S | 6-2 | 210 | 10/18/1977 | 4 | Notre Dame |
| 21 | Daniels, Travis | CB | 6-1 | 192 | 09/08/1982 | 1 | LSU |
| 29 | Goodman, Andre' | CB | 5-10 | 185 | 08/11/1978 | 4 | South Carolina |
| 22 | Hill, Renaldo | CB | 5-11 | 190 | 11/12/1978 | 5 | Michigan State |
| 49 | Hunt, Jack | S | 6-1 | 197 | 11/30/1981 | 0 | LSU |
| 20 | Jackson, Eddie | CB | 6-0 | 200 | 12/19/1980 | 2 | Arkansas |
| 42 | LeJeune, Norman | S | 6-0 | 207 | 05/10/1980 | 1 | LSU |
| 28 | Shabazz, Siddeeq | S | 5-11 | 200 | 02/05/1981 | 3 | New Mexico State |
| 26 | Tillman, Travares | S | 6-1 | 205 | 10/08/1977 | 5 | Georgia Tech |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 52 | Crowder, Channing | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 12/02/1983 | 1 | Florida |
| 50 | Hodge, Sedrick | LB | 6-4 | 246 | 09/13/1978 | 5 | North Carolina |
| 92 | Labinjo, Mike | LB | 6-1 | 255 | 07/08/1980 | 2 | Michigan State |
| 58 | Moore, Eddie | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 07/05/1980 | 2 | Tennessee |
| 56 | Pope, Derrick | LB | 6-0 | 232 | 05/04/1982 | 2 | Alabama |
| 59 | Spragan, Donnie | LB | 6-3 | 242 | 07/12/1976 | 4 | Stanford |
| 54 | Thomas, Zach | LB | 5-11 | 228 | 09/01/1973 | 10 | Texas Tech |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 5 | Jones, Donnie | P | 6-2 | 222 | 07/05/1980 | 2 | LSU |
| 10 | Mare, Olindo | K | 5-11 | 190 | 06/06/1973 | 9 | Syracuse |

COURTESY NFL

2005 RECORD: 5-11 | www.buffalobills.com

# BUFFALO BILLS

AFC EAST #3

RALPH WILSON STADIUM
CAPACITY: 73,967 | TURF: ARTIFICIAL | TICKETS: 716-649-0015

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 2 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 2 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 3 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 2 |
| LINEBACKERS | 3 |
| SECONDARY | 3 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 5 |
| MANAGEMENT | 2 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Kelly Holcomb | LE | Chris Kelsay | P | Brian Moorman |
| FB | Daimon Shelton | LT | Larry Tripplett | PR | Nate Clements |
| RB | Willis McGahee | RT | Tim Anderson | K | Rian Lindell |
| LT | Mike Gandy | RE | Aaron Schobel | KR | Terrence McGee |
| LG | Bennie Anderson | LLB | Jeff Posey | | |
| C | Melvin Fowler | MLB | London Fletcher | | |
| RG | Chris Villarrial | RLB | Angelo Crowell | | |
| RT | Jason Peters | LCB | Terrence McGee | | |
| TE | Robert Royal | RCB | Nate Clements | | |
| WR | Peerless Price | SS | Donte Whitner | | |
| WR | Lee Evans | FS | Troy Vincent | | |

**ON THE RISE**

**LEE EVANS**
wide receiver
With Eric Moulds out of the picture, he should become the go-to guy.

**FADING FAST**

**JEFF POSEY**
linebacker
He showed flashes of pass-rush skill earlier in his career but has slowed down and is no longer effective.

# Where the Buffalo groan

Still zero-for-the-millennium in playoff appearances, the Bills are looking to a geriatric front office to bring some spark to a floundering franchise.

At first glance, the Buffalo Bills don't look too good.

A second glance doesn't help.

Two seasons ago, the Bills fooled a lot of people—and maybe themselves as well—when they overcame an 0-4 start to win six of their last seven games and finish 9-7, barely missing the playoffs.

Now, 2004 and the almost-glorious start of the Mike Mularkey Era seem as remote as Buffalo Bill himself. This team is back where it started, which was perilously close to nowhere. The 2005 campaign ended as a funhouse-mirror reflection of the previous one, with the Bills losing six of their final seven, extinguishing the short-lived hopes kindled by a 3-3 start.

Mularkey, gone after two short seasons, is now offensive coordinator for the Miami Dolphins. The general manager who hired him, Tom Donahoe, is also gone. Three of the five players who started on the offensive line in '04 have vanished over the last two years. The quarterback situation is at best uncertain, the defense is in shambles, the owner crankier than ever (and that's saying something) and the good people of western New York figure to be looking at the continuation of a playoff drought that extends to the last century.

Sad, sad, sad.

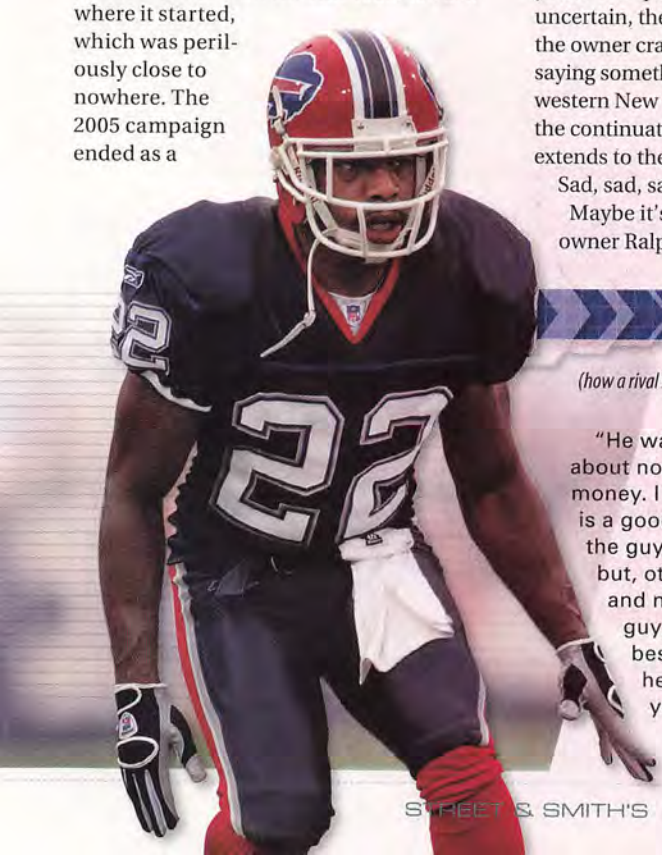
Maybe it's understandable that Bills owner Ralph Wilson should find himself longing for the good old days. He's 87. And he has had his fill of boy geniuses who have not been able to get his team into the postseason since 1999, when Wade Phillips was the coach.

Wilson fired him. Donahoe hired and fired Gregg Williams and then got a taste of his own medicine. And then Mularkey walked.

Bringing in the new man, who is also the old man.

Marv Levy, who never really wanted to leave coaching, returns to run the Bills' football operations. He's a spry 80. His hand-picked successor to Mularkey (after Levy hinted he might like to take the reins himself): Dick Jauron, who managed to go 35-46 as Chicago's head man from 1999 to 2003 and finished out the '05 season as the Detroit Lions' interim head coach. One plum after the next, eh?

So that's the ruling triumvirate. Wilson, a charter member of the AFL; Levy, already a Hall-of-Famer but with no front-office experience; and Jauron, who had one winning season with the Bears. Could it get any worse?



## THE BOOK ON ... NATE CLEMENTS

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"He was tagged as their franchise player and the Bills were very adamant about not letting him get away, even though he was talking about Champ Bailey money. I always worry about having one really good corner. Terrence McGee is a good player, but he's smaller. Clements, along with London Fletcher, are the guys this defense will have to rally around. Clements is rangy and athletic but, other than Deion Sanders, offenses can take one corner out of the game and make him a non-factor. He's probably overpaid by being the franchise guy, but that's probably the only way they could have kept him. He's their best player on defense and that's why they tagged him, but I don't think he's an elite corner. If they continue to play the run the way they did last year, there won't be any reason for teams to throw at them, much less at Clements."

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TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; TOMASSO DEROSA

**FACT**

In just his second season, wide receiver Lee Evans tied for second in the NFL with seven 40-plus-yard receptions. Washington's Santana Moss led the league with 10.

**STAT**

The Bills set a franchise record by scoring on 11 of their 16 opening drives during the 2005 season, surpassing the previous record of eight set in 1990 and 1999. Buffalo scored six touchdowns and five field goals on those opening possessions.

**LOOK IT UP**

Willis McGahee became the fastest player in team history to reach 2,000 career rushing yards, accomplishing the milestone in 26 games. Travis Henry and Cookie Gilchrist did it in 27 games.

## 5-YEAR WINS

## BILLS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **MARV LEVY** (12 YEARS) — **Record with Bills:** 123-78
2. **CHUCK KNOX** (5 YEARS) — **Record with Bills:** 38-38
3. **LOU SABAN** (9 YEARS) — **Record with Bills:** 70-47-4

## THE COUNT

**67.4**
Season-completion percentage for quarterback Kelly Holcomb in '05, which broke Jim Kelly's club record.

**30.2**
Average yards per kick return for Terrence McGee, a single-season club record and an NFL best in 2005.

**80.5**
Field-goal percentage for Rian Lindell in his three Buffalo seasons, the best mark in team history.

Sure. Just look at the roster and the moves that helped get it into its current shape.

After finishing 31st against the run—in part because they had let big Pat Williams wander off as a free agent—the Bills made the holes in the line even larger by making no effort to retain Sam Adams. He signed with the Bengals, who were hungry for an interior run-stuffer.

With a quarterback situation that features Kelly Holcomb, your classic journeyman, and J.P. Losman, who might be your classic first-round bust, the Bills went shopping and landed ... Craig Nall. Craig Nall? Nall had been backing up Brett Favre in Green Bay. That would be the Favre who has started every game since early 1992. Yeah, lots of playing time for ol' Craig there.

And having shipped out an unhappy Eric Moulds for a low draft pick, who should the Bills bring back but Peerless Price. After flopping in Atlanta and Dallas, he comes home to find the place in ruins.

Our gloomy summary: Not much good news at quarterback, an offense that gained its fewest yards (4,122) in a 16-game non-strike season, no defensive line and a running back (Willis McGahee) who decided to skip the voluntary camps.

Are we having fun yet?

In the short term it seems likely the Bills will go with Holcomb at quarterback because he at least has significant starting experience and the ability, in short bursts, to keep a team on track. How much this retards Losman's scant progress is an open question, but with Holcomb's history of injuries it is almost assured Losman will be on the field. He is going to need to win over his teammates while learning a new offense after not fully grasping the old one. He's got to complete a higher percentage of his passes and find ways to keep drives alive.

## DRAFT REPORT

The Bills came up with two of the big surprises of Round One. At No. 8 overall, they selected **Donte Whitner**, an undersized one-year starter at Ohio State. He will be expected to replace strong safety Lawyer Milloy. Then, later in the first, they traded up with Chicago to select N.C. State defensive tackle **John McCargo**. Both were selected 10-15 slots higher than projected. **Ashton Youboty**, another underclassman from the Ohio State defensive backfield, should eventually replace Nate Clements. **Ko Simpson** was projected as a late first-rounder following last season, but slid to the fourth following unimpressive workouts and interviews. **Kyle Williams** is a hard-working overachiever who can be an emotional pacesetter up front. **Brad Butler** played opposite D'Brickashaw Ferguson (Jets) at Virginia and can contribute on either side. **Keith Ellison** was a highly productive linebacker in the Pac-10. **Terrance Pennington** and **Aaron Merz** will likely spend their rookie seasons on the practice squad. The first seven picks all have a chance to make significant contributions in Buffalo.

**GRADE: B+**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8 | Whitner, Donte | S | 5-10 | 203 | Ohio State |
| 1 | 26 | McCargo, John | DT | 6-2 | 301 | N.C. State |
| 3 | 6 | Youboty, Ashton | CB | 6-0 | 188 | Ohio State |
| 4 | 8 | Simpson, Ko | S | 6-1 | 208 | South Carolina |
| 5 | 1 | Williams, Kyle | DT | 6-1 | 298 | LSU |
| 5 | 10 | Butler, Brad | T | 6-7 | 309 | Virginia |
| 6 | 9 | Ellison, Keith | LB | 6-1 | 229 | Oregon State |
| 7 | 8 | Pennington, Terrance | T | 6-7 | 325 | New Mexico |
| 7 | 40 | Merz, Aaron | G | 6-3 | 346 | California |

**HE SAID IT:**

**"I've had success here, and that played a part [in returning to Buffalo]. I feel comfortable here, and comfortable about the situation."**
*—Peerless Price on rejoining the team that chose him in the second round of the 1999 draft*

## 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 1 @ New England | SEPT. 10 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 2 @ Miami | SEPT. 17 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 3 vs. New York Jets | SEPT. 24 | 1:00 |

★ MUST-SEE GAME ★

*This game doesn't sound like much on paper, but the Bills open at New England and at Miami and will likely be 0-2 heading into their critical home opener.*

SCORE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 4 vs. Minnesota | OCT. 1 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 5 @ Chicago | OCT. 8 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 6 @ Detroit | OCT. 15 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 7 vs. New England | OCT. 22 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 8 *OPEN DATE* | | |
| WEEK 9 vs. Green Bay | NOV. 5 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 10 @ Indianapolis | NOV. 12 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 11 @ Houston | NOV. 19 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 12 vs. Jacksonville | NOV. 26 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 13 vs. San Diego | DEC. 3 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 14 @ New York Jets | DEC. 10 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 15 vs. Miami | DEC. 17 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 16 vs. Tennessee | DEC. 24 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 17 @ Baltimore | DEC. 31 | 1:00 SCORE |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | W | 22-7 | Houston |
| 09/18 | L | 3-19 | at Tampa Bay |
| 09/25 | L | 16-24 | Atlanta |
| 10/02 | L | 7-19 | at New Orleans |
| 10/09 | W | 20-14 | Miami |
| 10/16 | W | 27-17 | New York Jets |
| 10/23 | L | 17-38 | at Oakland |
| 10/30 | L | 16-21 | at New England |
| 11/13 | W | 14-3 | Kansas City |
| 11/20 | L | 10-48 | at San Diego |
| 11/27 | L | 9-13 | Carolina |
| 12/04 | L | 23-24 | at Miami |
| 12/11 | L | 7-35 | New England |
| 12/17 | L | 17-28 | Denver |
| 12/24 | W | 37-27 | at Cincinnati |
| 01/01 | L | 26-30 | at New York Jets |

WON **5**, LOST **11**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| McGahee | 325 | 1247 | 3.8 | 27 | 5 |
| S. Williams | 45 | 161 | 3.6 | 28 | 0 |
| Losman | 31 | 154 | 5.0 | 30 | 0 |
| Evans | 4 | 38 | 9.5 | 39 | 0 |
| Holcomb | 18 | 11 | 0.6 | 8 | 1 |
| J. Smith | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 |
| Shelton | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Parrish | 2 | -2 | -1.0 | 4 | 0 |
| Reed | 1 | -3 | -3.0 | -3 | 0 |
| **Bills** | **428** | **1607** | **3.8** | **39** | **6** |
| **Opponents** | **489** | **2205** | **4.5** | **59** | **22** |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Moulds | 81 | 816 | 10.1 | 55t | 4 |
| Evans | 48 | 743 | 15.5 | 65 | 7 |
| Reed | 32 | 449 | 14 | 51t | 2 |
| McGahee | 28 | 178 | 6.4 | 19 | 0 |
| Campbell | 19 | 139 | 7.3 | 27 | 0 |
| S. Williams | 17 | 118 | 6.9 | 23 | 0 |
| Parrish | 15 | 148 | 9.9 | 28 | 1 |
| Shelton | 13 | 98 | 7.5 | 21 | 1 |
| J. Smith | 5 | 56 | 11.2 | 19 | 1 |
| Aiken | 4 | 57 | 14.3 | 22 | 0 |
| Euhus | 3 | 17 | 5.7 | 9 | 0 |
| Peters | 2 | 5 | 2.5 | 4 | 1 |
| Burns | 1 | 19 | 19 | 19t | 1 |
| Neufeld | 1 | 9 | 9.0 | 9 | 0 |
| **Bills** | **269** | **2852** | **10.6** | **65** | **18** |
| **Opponents** | **314** | **3560** | **11.3** | **57** | **19** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Holcomb | 230 | 155 | 1509 | 10 | 8 |
| Losman | 228 | 113 | 1340 | 8 | 8 |
| Parrish | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| **Bills** | **459** | **269** | **2852** | **18** | **16** |
| **Opponents** | **503** | **314** | **3560** | **19** | **17** |

**SACKS**

Schobel 12, Denney 4, Fletcher 4, Adams 3, Crowell 3, Posey 3, Kelsay 2.5, Bannan 1.5, T. Anderson 1, R. Baker 1, Greer 1, Milloy 1, Spikes 1

**Bills 38, Opponents 43**

McGahee is certainly a competent running back. He can dip and burrow and make holes, and thank the Almighty for that because he will be very much on his own to do so a lot of the time this season. Jauron professes deep love for McGahee, but has also said he'd love him more had McGahee showed a bit of leadership and attended the voluntary workouts.

WILLIS McGAHEE, RB

Just a few years back, the Bills appeared to have a solid situation at offensive tackle with Jonas Jennings on the left side and Mike Williams, a first-round pick, on the right. The questions were at center and guard. But Jennings departed a year ago as a free agent and Williams fell off the map. The Bills moved him inside and then off the roster; he signed with Jacksonville.

Melvin Fowler, a hair undersized at 295 pounds, signed as a free agent and should start at center, replacing Trey Teague. Guards Chris Villarrial and Bennie Anderson are decent veterans. The left tackle, Mike Gandy, was drafted by Chicago when Jauron worked there. The Bills could look for an upgrade on the right side, where Jason Peters currently resides. There really is not a marquee player in this group.

If the line can protect the passer, Holcomb will scan a batch of receivers that no longer includes Moulds, who was (of course) his favorite target. Lee Evans and Josh Reed return, but Reed will be pushed by Price and free agent Andre Davis. Roscoe Parrish has the speed to be helpful in situations, but not as a No. 2 and maybe not even as the third guy. Tight ends? The Bills signed Robert Royal away from Washington, but the rest of this group is a royal flush.

The news isn't much better on the defensive side. Adams and Justin Bannan departed, but the Bills signed Larry Triplett, who lacks bulk but has some quickness and may help push the pocket. That's not much comfort when the run-stopping is so poor. Aaron Schobel, who had 12 sacks last season, continues to develop as a top defensive end. He has led this team in sacks in each of his five seasons. There's not much help coming from the other side, however. The Bills made a trade to get an extra first-round pick and used it on N.C. State defensive tackle John McCargo, who will have to supply the interior bulk.

The linebackers are a decent bunch. Takeo Spikes comes back from a torn Achilles' tendon that landed him on injured reserve after three games and it will be a shame if he pushes Angelo Crowell to the bench. Crowell is a good young player who deserves to start. Spikes had never before, in seven NFL seasons, missed a game with an injury. London Fletcher, the fireplug in the middle, remains a tackling machine but is beginning his ninth

JOHN SOKOLOWSKI

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Bills)*

"They have distinct problems at quarterback, because I don't think J.P. Losman is the answer. Willis McGahee, to me, is just a guy. He's pretty good, but you're not going to win by giving him the ball 30 times a game. ...

"The interior of their offensive line is just a real question mark now, which only puts more pressure on McGahee to gain yards. They don't have a real go-to guy on this offense and, to me, Losman is going to be like the stock market, where he's going to have one 110-quarterback-rating game and then a 72-rating game. And if Kelly Holcomb starts ahead of him, well, there you go. ...

"Defensively, they are going to continue to struggle. They've got a good corner in Nate Clements and London Fletcher is still a good linebacker, but their inside presence is gone up front, where they lost Sam Adams."

season. Jeff Posey, the strongside 'backer, is also going into his ninth year and the Bills need to start thinking about more youthful folks who can run. Still, if Spikes returns to form after his surgery, this unit seems more than adequate.

There's good news and bad in the secondary. The Bills lost Lawyer Milloy at strong safety, but were able to re-sign Nate Clements, their designated franchise player, to a one-year deal worth $7.2 million. The five-year starter has 20 interceptions in his time with the Bills, returning four for touchdowns.

Terrence McGee gets the job done at left cornerback and heady old Troy Vincent seems very much at home at free safety, though he is going into his 15th season.

Donte Whitner, the first of Buffalo's two No. 1 picks, will get every opportunity to start at strong safety. Otherwise the Bills look to free-agent pickup Matt Bowen, a veteran who is better against the run than the pass.

The Bills are very good on special teams and have taken to heart the lessons preached by the unit's coordinator, Bobby April. Brian Moorman is a Pro Bowl punter. This is one area of high function for the club.

The Bills need a lot of things to go their way if they are to pull themselves together and get back into playoff contention. Holcomb or Losman has to get this team settled down offensively and the Bills must find ways to extend drives, control the clock and eat up time and yardage. They cannot ask their defense to do too much.

They've got to sort out an uneven group of receivers and find a new go-to guy. They've got to rush for more than six touchdowns. They've got to find ways to protect leads. Last year they were outscored 123-59 in the fourth quarter and 198-105 in the second half.

Not good.

There's a palpable sense in western New York that the Bills' days could be numbered there due to the economic woes of the area. They are magnified for the football team when it does not win because crowds shrink (and the stadium is huge, making it more difficult to stave off the home blackouts). Viability for the Bills comes down to winning and selling tickets. Since last making the playoffs (1999), they've had one winning record.

Not good.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Craig Nall**, QB (GB)
- **Andre Davis**, WR (NE)
- **Robert Royal**, TE (WAS)
- **Larry Tripplett**, DT (IND)
- **Matt Bowen**, DB (WAS)
- **Melvin Fowler**, C (MIN)
- **Matt Morgan**, OL (STL)
- **Kiwaukee Thomas**, DB (MIA)
- **James Bethea**, DB (None)
- **Aaron Gibson**, OT (None)
- **Peerless Price**, WR (DAL)
- **Tutan Reyes**, OG (CAR)
- **Anthony Thomas**, RB (NO)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Justin Bannan**, DT (BAL)
- **Lawyer Milloy**, DB (ATL)
- **Mike Williams**, OT (JAX)
- **Sam Adams**, DT (CIN)
- **Mark Campbell**, TE (NO)
- **Ron Edwards**, DT (KC)
- **Eric Moulds**, WR (trade, HOU)
- **Trey Teague**, OL (NYJ)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 257.6 | 28 |
| Rushing | 100.4 | 20 |
| Passing | 157.2 | 29 |
| Scoring | 271 | 24 |
| Punt Returns | 10.0 | 5 |
| Kick Returns | 26.6 | 1 |
| Red Zone TD % | 34.7 | 30 |
| Total Defense | 343.5 | 29 |
| Against Rush | 137.8 | 31 |
| Against Pass | 205.7 | 19 |
| Points Allowed | 367 | 24 |
| Interceptions | 17 | 10t |
| Sacks | 38 | 13 |
| Turnover Diff. | +4 | 13 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 259 | 96 | 129 | 34 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 49 | 182 | 17 | 21 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 18 | 1 | 1 |

## BILLS ROSTER

**Dick Jauron, head coach**; **Steve Fairchild**, off. coord.; **Perry Fewell**, def. coord.; **Bobby April**, asst. head coach/special teams; **George Catavolos**, def. backs; **Charlie Coiner**, tight ends; **DeMontie Cross**, def./special teams asst.; **Bill Kollar**, def. line; **Jim McNally**, off. line; **Turk Schonert**, quarterbacks; **Matt Sheldon**, linebackers; **Eric Studesville**, running backs; **Tyke Tolbert**, wide receivers; **Larry Zierlein**, asst. off. line

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | Holcomb, Kelly | QB | 6-2 | 212 | 07/09/1973 | 6 | Middle Tenn. State |
| 7 | Losman, J.P. | QB | 6-2 | 217 | 03/12/1981 | 2 | Tulane |
| 16 | Nall, Craig | QB | 6-3 | 230 | 04/21/1979 | 2 | Northwestern State |
| 2 | Woodbury, Tory | QB | 6-2 | 208 | 07/12/1978 | 2 | Winston-Salem St. |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 66 | Anderson, Bennie | G | 6-5 | 345 | 02/17/1977 | 5 | Tennessee State |
| 67 | Fowler, Melvin | C | 6-3 | 295 | 03/31/1979 | 4 | Maryland |
| 69 | Gandy, Mike | T | 6-4 | 310 | 01/03/1979 | 4 | Notre Dame |
| 73 | Geisinger, Justin | G | 6-3 | 322 | 05/24/1982 | 0 | Vanderbilt |
| 78 | Gibson, Aaron | G | 6-6 | 370 | 09/27/1977 | 5 | Wisconsin |
| 76 | Jerman, Greg | G | 6-5 | 310 | 01/24/1979 | 4 | Baylor |
| 79 | McFarland, Dylan | T | 6-5 | 290 | 07/11/1980 | 2 | Montana |
| 72 | Morgan, Matt | T | 6-6 | 304 | 12/03/1980 | 1 | Pittsburgh |
| 71 | Peters, Jason | T | 6-4 | 328 | 01/22/1982 | 2 | Arkansas |
| 75 | Preston, Duke | G | 6-5 | 311 | 06/12/1982 | 1 | Illinois |
| 70 | Reyes, Tutan | G | 6-3 | 310 | 10/28/1977 | 3 | Mississippi |
| 54 | Schneck, Mike | C | 6-1 | 237 | 08/04/1977 | 7 | Wisconsin |
| 60 | Thomas, Jason | G | 6-3 | 310 | 07/10/1977 | 2 | Hampton |
| 58 | Villarrial, Chris | G | 6-3 | 318 | 06/09/1973 | 10 | Indiana (PA) |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 35 | Burns, Joe | RB | 5-9 | 215 | 09/15/1979 | 4 | Georgia Tech |
| 25 | Gates, Lionel | RB | 6-0 | 233 | 03/13/1982 | 0 | Louisville |
| 44 | Goldsberry, Jon | RB | 6-1 | 246 | 12/04/1981 | 0 | Purdue |
| 21 | McGahee, Willis | RB | 6-0 | 228 | 10/20/1981 | 2 | Miami (FL) |
| 31 | Shelton, Daimon | RB | 6-0 | 262 | 09/15/1972 | 8 | Sacramento State |
| 28 | Thomas, Anthony | RB | 6-2 | 225 | 11/07/1977 | 5 | Michigan |
| 20 | Williams, Shaud | RB | 5-7 | 193 | 10/02/1980 | 2 | Alabama |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 89 | Aiken, Sam | WR | 6-2 | 204 | 12/14/1980 | 3 | North Carolina |
| 48 | Cieslak, Brad | TE | 6-3 | 262 | 07/01/1982 | 1 | Northern Illinois |
| 18 | Davis, Andre' | WR | 6-1 | 195 | 06/12/1979 | 4 | Virginia Tech |
| 87 | Euhus, Tim | TE | 6-5 | 249 | 10/02/1980 | 2 | Oregon State |
| 83 | Evans, Lee | WR | 5-10 | 197 | 03/11/1981 | 2 | Wisconsin |
| 88 | Neufeld, Ryan | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 11/22/1975 | 5 | UCLA |
| 11 | Parrish, Roscoe | WR | 5-9 | 168 | 07/16/1982 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| 81 | Price, Peerless | WR | 5-11 | 190 | 10/27/1976 | 7 | Tennessee |
| 82 | Reed, Josh | WR | 5-10 | 208 | 05/01/1980 | 4 | LSU |
| 84 | Royal, Robert | TE | 6-4 | 260 | 05/15/1979 | 3 | LSU |
| 19 | Smith, Jonathan | WR | 5-10 | 194 | 11/28/1981 | 2 | Georgia Tech |
| 15 | Wilson, George | WR | 6-0 | 210 | 03/14/1981 | 1 | Arkansas |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 77 | Anderson, Tim | DT | 6-3 | 304 | 11/22/1980 | 2 | Ohio State |
| 67 | Brown, LaWaylon | DT | 6-5 | 305 | 06/12/1980 | 0 | Oklahoma State |
| 92 | Denney, Ryan | DE | 6-7 | 275 | 06/15/1977 | 4 | Brigham Young |
| 99 | Jefferson, Jason | DT | 6-1 | 310 | 12/20/1981 | 1 | Wisconsin |
| 90 | Kelsay, Chris | DE | 6-4 | 275 | 10/31/1979 | 3 | Nebraska |
| 91 | Powell, Eric | DE | 6-3 | 268 | 11/16/1979 | 0 | Florida State |
| 93 | Sape, Lauvale | DT | 6-1 | 296 | 08/29/1980 | 2 | Utah |
| 94 | Schobel, Aaron | DE | 6-4 | 262 | 09/01/1977 | 5 | TCU |
| 75 | Tripplett, Larry | DT | 6-2 | 295 | 01/18/1979 | 4 | Washington |
| 97 | Tupai, Tai | DT | 6-5 | 318 | 05/24/1981 | 0 | Washington State |
| 63 | Word, Mark | DE | 6-5 | 295 | 11/23/1975 | 3 | Jacksonville State |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 26 | Baker, Rashad | S | 5-10 | 198 | 02/22/1982 | 2 | Tennessee |
| 30 | Bethea, James | CB | 6-0 | 180 | 09/24/1982 | 2 | California |
| 41 | Bowen, Matt | S | 6-1 | 203 | 11/12/1976 | 6 | Iowa |
| 22 | Clements, Nate | CB | 6-0 | 209 | 12/12/1979 | 5 | Ohio State |
| 33 | Greer, Jabari | CB | 5-11 | 169 | 02/11/1982 | 2 | Tennessee |
| 29 | King, Eric | CB | 5-10 | 185 | 05/10/1982 | 1 | Wake Forest |
| 39 | Lee, Rob | CB | 6-0 | 193 | 02/11/1981 | 0 | Northern Illinois |
| 42 | Leonhard, Jim | S | 5-8 | 190 | 10/27/1982 | 1 | Wisconsin |
| 24 | McGee, Terrence | CB | 5-9 | 195 | 10/14/1980 | 3 | Northwestern State |
| 20 | Thomas, Kiwaukee | CB | 5-11 | 192 | 06/19/1977 | 6 | Georgia Southern |
| 23 | Vincent, Troy | S | 6-1 | 200 | 06/08/1971 | 14 | Wisconsin |
| 27 | Wire, Coy | S | 6-0 | 205 | 11/07/1978 | 4 | Stanford |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 55 | Crowell, Angelo | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 08/16/1981 | 3 | Virginia |
| 50 | Ezekiel, Liam | LB | 6-0 | 249 | 10/30/1982 | 1 | Northeastern |
| 59 | Fletcher, London | LB | 5-10 | 245 | 05/19/1975 | 8 | John Carroll |
| 53 | Haggan, Mario | LB | 6-3 | 248 | 03/03/1980 | 3 | Mississippi State |
| 54 | Hunter, Wendell | LB | 6-0 | 228 | 04/19/1982 | 0 | California |
| 96 | Posey, Jeff | LB | 6-4 | 241 | 08/14/1975 | 8 | Southern Miss |
| 51 | Spikes, Takeo | LB | 6-2 | 242 | 12/17/1976 | 8 | Auburn |
| 57 | Stamer, Josh | LB | 6-2 | 238 | 10/11/1977 | 3 | South Dakota |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 9 | Lindell, Rian | K | 6-3 | 235 | 01/20/1977 | 6 | Washington State |
| 8 | Moorman, Brian | P | 6-0 | 175 | 02/05/1976 | 5 | Pittsburg State |

COURTESY NFL

2005 RECORD: 4-12 | www.newyorkjets.com

# NEW YORK JETS

AFC EAST #4

THE MEADOWLANDS
CAPACITY: 80,062 | TURF: ARTIFICIAL | TICKETS: 516-560-8200

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 2 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 2 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 2 |
| RECEIVERS | 2 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| LINEBACKERS | 3 |
| SECONDARY | 2 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 3 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Chad Pennington | LE | Shaun Ellis | P | Ben Graham |
| FB | B.J. Askew | NT | Dewayne Robertson | PR | Jerricho Cotchery |
| RB | Curtis Martin | RE | Kimo von Oelhoffen | K | Mike Nugent |
| LT | D'Brickashaw Ferguson | OLB | Victor Hobson | KR | Justin Miller |
| LG | Trey Teague | ILB | Jonathan Vilma | | |
| C | Nick Mangold | ILB | Eric Barton | | |
| RG | Pete Kendall | OLB | Bryan Thomas | | |
| RT | Adrian Jones | LCB | Justin Miller | | |
| TE | Doug Jolley | RCB | Andre Dyson | | |
| WR | Laveranues Coles | SS | Kerry Rhodes | | |
| WR | Justin McCareins | FS | Erik Coleman | | |

**ON THE RISE**

**JONATHAN VILMA**
inside linebacker
He's already a terrific MLB and the hope is a 3-4 look won't compromise him.

**FADING FAST**

**CURTIS MARTIN**
running back
He has too much mileage on him to be effective when there are quarterback and offensive-line questions.

# Boy wonder (or blunder)?

## Youthful new Jets mentor Eric Mangini arrives from New England as a veritable clone of Bill Belichick—but his track record is sparse.

J-E-S-T! Jest! Jest! Jest!

As in: You've got to be kidding. This is a joke.

Not kidding. No joke. The New York Jets are no more than a crinkled fuselage and the repair crew is not exactly inspiring confidence in most quarters.

The downhill spiral began with Chad Pennington's shoulder injury two years ago. Last season the club played four quarterbacks after Pennington was hurt again, and injury and age caught up with other key starters, including Curtis Martin, Wayne Chrebet and Kevin Mawae.

Then the coach, Herman Edwards, orchestrated his departure to the Kansas City Chiefs for a fourth-round draft choice. And next, the Jets decided the general manager, Terry Bradway, needed to go as well, though he stayed on as a consultant through the draft.

In charge: new General Manager Mike Tannenbaum, whose background is primarily in contracts and the salary cap, and Coach Eric Mangini, who had been a coordinator for one year with the New England Patriots.

Tannenbaum, 37, and Mangini, 35, combined are not as old as Buffalo Bills GM Marv Levy. Usually youth movements are confined to the field of play, not unleashed in the front office.

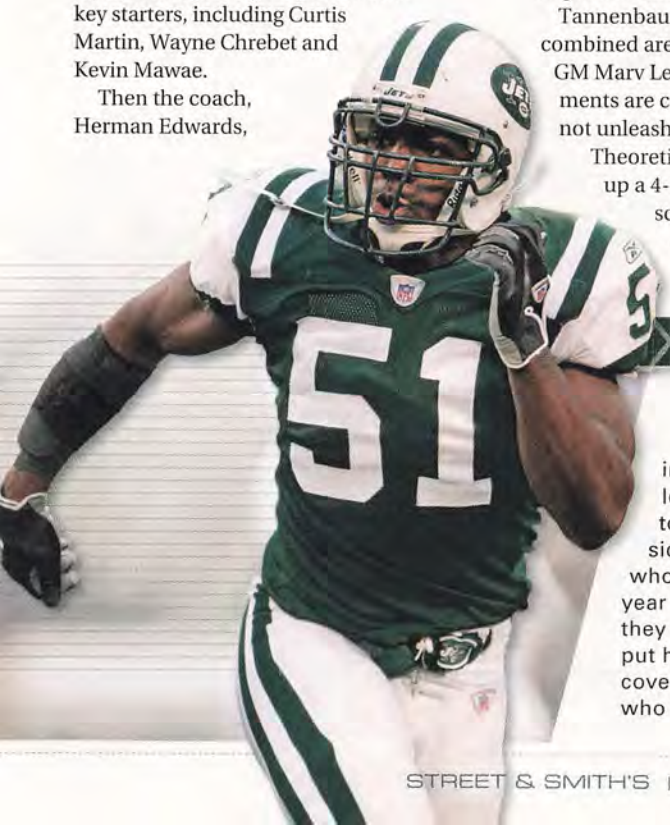
Theoretically, it is impossible to screw up a 4-12 team. If the team were not screwed up, it would not be 4-12. It would not have lost seven games in a row. It would not have showed how far it is from competence by losing back-to-back games to Carolina and Denver by a combined 57-3.

Mangini's hiring clearly stemmed from his ability to sell owner Woody Johnson on the Patriots' model of doing business. He is a longtime assistant of Bill Belichick's, dating to Belichick's tenure with the Cleveland Browns, and last year he was New England's defensive coordinator, replacing Romeo Crennel. There aren't a lot of defined moments in his career to be examined.

Also, a philosophy is only as good as its practitioners—and the Jets, especially on defense, look as if they are a square peg being shoved into a round hole designed not for them, but for the Patriots.

Consider the move to the 3-4 defense. Granted, we're guessing here because the one thing Mangini truly has in common with Belichick is an ability to say nothing. You want to see a depth chart on the Jets' Web site? Good luck. They're promising one in time for training camp.

But there's no reason to sign Kimo von Oelhoffen if there's no 3-4 on the horizon.



## THE BOOK ON ... JONATHAN VILMA

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"This guy is a stud. He's undersized but very athletic and very instinctive. He's excellent at key-and-diagnose. It doesn't take him long to realize where the play is going and it doesn't take him long to get there. He can make plays by chasing people from sideline to sideline and he covers that ground very quickly. He's a very bright guy who understood the old scheme and fit right in with it. He benefited last year from the people up in front of him. If they go with a three-man front, they won't be doing Vilma any favors. If you take him out of the 4-3 and put him in a 3-4 as an inside guy, I think you will hurt him. There's more coverage responsibilities and more blitz responsibilities, and that's not who he is."

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TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; RICH KANE

**FACT**

Of the Jets' 12 losses in 2005, seven were by 10 points or less. New York scored first in just one of those close defeats.

**STAT**

For the first time in his 11-year career, Curtis Martin was held under 1,000 yards rushing. He finished with 735 in 12 games after entering the season averaging 1,367 yards per season since 1995.

**LOOK IT UP**

Laveranues Coles had 13 catches for 203 yards and three touchdowns in the season's final three games, after scoring just twice through the first 13 contests. Coles' 73 receptions, 845 yards and five touchdowns led all Jets receivers.

## 5-YEAR WINS

## JETS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **WEEB EWBANK** (11 YEARS)
   **Record with Jets:** 73-78-6
2. **BILL PARCELLS** (3 YEARS)
   **Record with Jets:** 30-20
3. **HERMAN EDWARDS** (5 YEARS)
   **Record with Jets:** 41-44

## THE COUNT

**57**
The number of 100-yard rushing games for Curtis Martin in his career. He had one in 2005.

**.535**
The Jets' winning percentage since they went 1-15 in 1996.

**24.3**
New York's average kickoff return yards in 2005, third best in the league.

## 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 1** @ Tennessee | | |
| SEPT. 10 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| **WEEK 2** vs. New England | | |
| SEPT. 17 | 4:15 | SCORE |
| **WEEK 3** @ Buffalo | | |
| SEPT. 24 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| **WEEK 4** vs. Indianapolis | | |
| OCT. 1 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| **WEEK 5** @ Jacksonville | | |
| OCT. 8 | 4:05 | SCORE |
| ★ MUST-SEE GAME ★ | | |
| *Follows the Indianapolis game; two straight beatings may be too much to withstand.* | | |
| **WEEK 6** vs. Miami | | |
| OCT. 15 | 4:15 | SCORE |
| **WEEK 7** vs. Detroit | | |
| OCT. 22 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| **WEEK 8** @ Cleveland | | |
| OCT. 29 | 4:15 | SCORE |
| **WEEK 9** *OPEN DATE* | | |
| **WEEK 10** @ New England | | |
| NOV. 12 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| **WEEK 11** vs. Chicago | | |
| NOV. 19 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| **WEEK 12** vs. Houston | | |
| NOV. 26 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| **WEEK 13** @ Green Bay | | |
| DEC. 3 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| **WEEK 14** vs. Buffalo | | |
| DEC. 10 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| **WEEK 15** @ Minnesota | | |
| DEC. 17 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| **WEEK 16** @ Miami | | |
| DEC. 25 | 8:30 | SCORE |
| **WEEK 17** vs. Oakland | | |
| DEC. 31 | 1:00 | SCORE |

## DRAFT REPORT

The 35-year-old von Oelhoffen is a 3-4 end and not a 4-3 end and that's that. Somehow, John Abraham seems like a younger, more vibrant guy to have, but the Jets franchised him and then he was traded to the Atlanta Falcons.

Who's the nose tackle in the 3-4? Well, it might have to be Dewayne Robertson. Not that the 3-4 suits him. It is more suited to James Reed, but he was an unsigned free agent as of press time. It's not as if Robertson, the fourth pick of the 2003 draft, has dominated in the four-man line anyway.

Asking left end Shaun Ellis to play inside more in this scheme is ridiculous. Whatever he achieved as a pass rusher had to be viewed in the light of Abraham on the other side. Abraham finally had his wish granted and is gone, and von Oelhoffen, while capable, is not Abraham.

Nor will it do middle (oops, inside) linebacker Jonathan Vilma any good. He can track and chase plays beautifully as a mike, but a 3-4 inside guy has very different responsibilities that include more pass coverage. Why take him away from his strengths?

No matter. Mangini, when he does speak, talks about "the plan" and "having seen the plan work." Some of us have seen plumbers work, but we cannot fix our own pipes.

So the Jets have a few problems on defense and they compound the difficult aspects of limited personnel with a shift to an alignment for which they aren't suited. This team was 29th against the run last year. What signals that it will be better because it is different?

The defense looks like the Garden of Eden when contrasted with the offense.

A year ago, the Jets brought in Mike Heimerdinger to coordinate an attack that would get the ball down the field. Then Pennington got crushed and so

The Jets addressed their greatest need with the selection of **D'Brickashaw Ferguson**. He will start immediately at left tackle, allowing Adrian Jones to return to the right side. The Jets tried hard to swing a deal with the Lions at No. 9 overall to be able to select QB Matt Leinart, but were unable to meet the asking price of Detroit. Late in the first round, they added center **Nick Mangold**, who may start and push Trey Teague to left guard. For the second straight year, the Jets jumped in front of Minnesota to select a player they knew the Vikings were targeting. Last year, it was placekicker Mike Nugent. This year, it was QB **Kellen Clemens** of Oregon. He will compete with Chad Pennington and Patrick Ramsey and should be ready to start in 2007. Ohio State LB **Anthony Schlegel** excels against the run, but lacks speed and range and was a reach in the third round. **Eric Smith** is an underrated strong safety with good ball skills and smarts. Highly athletic **Brad Smith** played quarterback at Missouri, but will likely be tried at wide receiver. Florida State's **Leon Washington** is the young back the team wanted to add behind aging Curtis Martin. **Jason Pociask** is a FB/TE 'tweener who excels as a blocker. **Drew Coleman**, an undersized corner, may spend his rookie season on the practice squad. **Titus Adams** can play any of the three line positions in the 3-4. Clemens is a wild card here, but there is little to get excited about after the first two picks.

GRADE: **B**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | Ferguson, D'Brickashaw | T | 6-6 | 313 | Virginia |
| 1 | 29 | Mangold, Nick | C | 6-4 | 299 | Ohio State |
| 2 | 17 | Clemens, Kellen | QB | 6-2 | 223 | Oregon |
| 3 | 12 | Schlegel, Anthony | LB | 6-0 | 251 | Ohio State |
| 3 | 33 | Smith, Eric | S | 6-1 | 209 | Michigan State |
| 4 | 6 | Smith, Brad | QB | 6-2 | 212 | Missouri |
| 4 | 20 | Washington, Leon | RB | 5-8 | 202 | Florida State |
| 5 | 17 | Pociask, Jason | TE | 6-3 | 267 | Wisconsin |
| 6 | 20 | Coleman, Drew | DB | 5-8 | 173 | TCU |
| 7 | 12 | Adams, Titus | DT | 6-3 | 305 | Nebraska |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | L | 7-27 | at Kansas City |
| 09/18 | W | 17-7 | Miami |
| 09/25 | L | 20-26 | Jacksonville |
| 10/02 | L | 3-13 | at Baltimore |
| 10/09 | W | 14-12 | Tampa Bay |
| 10/16 | L | 17-27 | at Buffalo |
| 10/24 | L | 14-27 | at Atlanta |
| 11/06 | L | 26-31 | San Diego |
| 11/13 | L | 3-30 | at Carolina |
| 11/20 | L | 0-27 | at Denver |
| 11/27 | L | 19-21 | New Orleans |
| 12/04 | L | 3-16 | at New England |
| 12/11 | W | 26-10 | Oakland |
| 12/18 | L | 20-24 | at Miami |
| 12/26 | L | 21-31 | New England |
| 01/01 | W | 30-26 | Buffalo |

WON **4**, LOST **12**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Martin | 220 | 735 | 3.3 | 49 | 5 |
| Houston | 81 | 302 | 3.7 | 17 | 2 |
| Bollinger | 35 | 135 | 3.9 | 15 | 0 |
| Askew | 13 | 59 | 4.5 | 14 | 0 |
| Blaylock | 17 | 53 | 3.1 | 11 | 0 |
| Pennington | 6 | 27 | 4.5 | 14 | 0 |
| McCareins | 1 | 8 | 8.0 | 8 | 0 |
| Cotchery | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4 | 0 |
| Testaverde | 7 | 4 | 0.6 | 2 | 2 |
| Sowell | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1t | 1 |
| Fiedler | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Graham | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Jets** | **384** | **1328** | **3.5** | **49** | **10** |
| **Opponents** | **554** | **2185** | **3.9** | **65** | **19** |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Coles | 73 | 845 | 11.6 | 43 | 5 |
| McCareins | 43 | 713 | 16.6 | 45 | 2 |
| Jolley | 29 | 324 | 11.2 | 60t | 1 |
| Sowell | 28 | 155 | 5.5 | 28 | 2 |
| Martin | 24 | 118 | 4.9 | 14 | 0 |
| Cotchery | 19 | 251 | 13.2 | 45 | 0 |
| Baker | 18 | 269 | 14.9 | 47 | 1 |
| Chrebet | 15 | 153 | 10.2 | 20 | 0 |
| Houston | 8 | 66 | 8.3 | 16 | 0 |
| Dreessen | 5 | 41 | 8.2 | 17 | 0 |
| Blaylock | 3 | 17 | 5.7 | 10 | 0 |
| Ridgeway | 2 | 26 | 13.0 | 17 | 0 |
| Askew | 1 | 11 | 11.0 | 11 | 0 |
| **Jets** | **268** | **2989** | **11.2** | **60t** | **11** |
| **Opponents** | **284** | **2948** | **10.4** | **50t** | **17** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bollinger | 266 | 150 | 1558 | 7 | 6 |
| Testaverde | 106 | 60 | 777 | 1 | 6 |
| Pennington | 83 | 49 | 530 | 2 | 3 |
| Fiedler | 13 | 8 | 107 | 1 | 0 |
| Kingsbury | 2 | 1 | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| **Jets** | **470** | **268** | **2989** | **11** | **15** |
| **Opponents** | **463** | **284** | **2948** | **17** | **21** |

**SACKS**

Abraham 10.5, Robertson 3.5, Thomas 3.5, Legree 3, Ellis 2.5, Reed 2, Brown 1.5, Hobson 1, Rhodes 1, Washington 1, Vilma 0.5

**Jets 30, Opponents 53**

WARREN ZINN / US PRESSWIRE

did everything else, and now Brian Schottenheimer will run the offense.

Maybe he'll have use of Pennington, who's again coming back from repair work on his shoulder. Pennington had to accept a reworked contract that cut his base pay to $3 million, but he can earn back the difference with a $6 million incentive package. He did not have a big arm before the first surgery and he showed very little last season before going out again, so his health may not be as important as his strength.

If Pennington is not whole, the Jets can turn to Patrick Ramsey, whom they acquired from the Washington Redskins at a bargain price. Ramsey, once the last pick of the first round, went to the Jets for a sixth-round pick. During his time with Washington, Ramsey proved willing to hang in the pocket and take a beating in Steve Spurrier's ill-conceived system, but Joe Gibbs' quick disavowal of him really smudged his image. Ramsey was the nominal starter last September, got yanked after a not-too-serious injury in the opener and backed up Mark Brunell the rest of the way.

If Pennington is unable to take a pounding and Ramsey is too willing, the Jets' offensive line may be awfully accommodating. And offensive. New York let center Mawae and right tackle Jason Fabini go as free agents. With their two first-round picks, the Jets did the right thing and addressed this area of major need.

D'Brickashaw Ferguson should start at left tackle and give the line an anchor for the next decade. The second No. 1, center Nick Mangold, could also start. The Jets had previously signed Trey Teague as the stopgap center and Anthony Clement to play right tackle. Teague can play tackle or center. Pete Kendall filled in for Mawae last season after Mawae went out at the end of October with torn triceps. He'll move to right guard this year. Clement has great size, but failed to start for Arizona and San Francisco. Last year's starter at left tackle, Adrian Jones, will probably move back to the right side, ahead of Clement.

Martin, 33, the stellar but quiet running back, saw a streak of 126 consecutive starts (including playoffs) end when his knee

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Jets)*

"It's 'Babes in Toyland.' They have a 35-year-old head coach and a 37-year-old general manager. [Owner] Woody Johnson thinks he's Bob Kraft, and he thinks Eric Mangini is Bill Belichick and Mike Tannenbaum is Scott Pioli. Well, the [New England] blueprint might be fine, but the blueprint isn't what makes it work—it's the people. There are aces and deuces and they are holding all the deuces. You can say what you want about Terry Bradway and Herman Edwards, but Terry is more qualified than Mike, and Herm is more qualified than Mangini, so they have gone backwards. ...

"Issues? Quarterback, running back, wideout, offensive line. Across the board. Chad Pennington? Who knows. Patrick Ramsey? Not the answer. Curtis Martin? Old. Offensive line? A mess. They might break the record for least points scored. ...

"Defensively, they are pretty good up front, OK in the middle, hurting in the back end. They'll be so-so."

became too balky and arthroscopic surgery was needed. Martin averaged only 3.3 yards a carry and his streak of 1,000-yard seasons ended at 10. He had hoped to become the first player in NFL history to start his career with 11 such seasons. Last season was the first since 1997 in which Martin missed more than one game, so durable has he been.

Martin had already showed signs of slowing and, with a poor line in front of him, he may never shine again. The player who replaced him, Cedric Houston, was hurt in a car accident in the offseason.

The Jets are not particularly deep at receiver or tight end. Laveranues Coles played OK, but Justin McCareins was disappointing. Chrebet, plagued by concussions throughout his career, retired after missing the final eight games of 2005 with another knock to the head. The Jets will miss his toughness and his ability to make not the spectacular plays but the 10 catches that provided first downs. Doug Jolley hung on to the tight end job when Chris Baker got hurt but didn't hang on to much else.

Mike Nugent had a so-so rookie year kicking for the Jets, but ought to improve. He made seven of 10 field goals from 40-49 yards—slightly below the league average but not bad at the Meadowlands—and missed twice from 50 or longer. Experience should help him. Weather is a factor in every AFC East locus except Miami.

The Jets struck gold with rookie punter Ben Graham, an Australian who averaged 43.7 yards. And Justin Miller did a nice job returning kickoffs. Special teams ought not be too critical a concern for this team, which surely will find itself punting often and returning more than a few kickoffs.

If Mangini is any kind of whiz kid, the Jets will be inclined toward patience and give him a chance to rebuild a franchise that seemingly collapsed on itself overnight. If the draft is any indication, at least they were smart enough to build along the line first. But patience in today's NFL is three seasons. Even if the owner has it, though, what about the fans?

The Jets haven't been to the Super Bowl since the 1968 season, and they've only been to the AFC Championship Game twice since then (1982, 1998). The only place to go is up.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Patrick Ramsey**, QB (trade, WAS)
- **Kimo von Oelhoffen**, DE (PIT)
- **Matt Chatham**, LB (NE)
- **Tim Dwight**, WR (NE)
- **Andre Dyson**, CB (SEA)
- **Trey Teague**, OL (BUF)
- **Brad Kassell**, LB (TEN)
- **Anthony Clement**, OL (SF)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Kevin Mawae**, C (TEN)
- **Jason Fabini**, OT (DAL)
- **John Abraham**, DE (trade, ATL)
- **Oliver Celestin**, DB (SEA)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 248.1 | 31 |
| Rushing | 83.0 | 31 |
| Passing | 165.1 | 28 |
| Scoring | 240 | 29 |
| Punt Returns | 6.4 | 25 |
| Kick Returns | 24.3 | 3t |
| Red Zone TD % | 44.2 | 24 |
| Total Defense | 308.8 | 12 |
| Against Rush | 136.6 | 29 |
| Against Pass | 172.2 | 2 |
| Points Allowed | 355 | 23 |
| Interceptions | 21 | 5 |
| Sacks | 30 | 25 |
| Turnover Diff. | -6 | 20t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 251 | 74 | 146 | 31 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 43 | 177 | 19 | 15 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | 11 | 1 | 3 |

## JETS ROSTER

**Eric Mangini, head coach**; **Brian Schottenheimer**, off. coord.; **Bob Sutton**, linebackers; **Mike Westhoff**, asst. head coach/special teams coord.; **Richie Anderson**, asst. wide receivers; **Corwin Brown**, def. backs; **Bryan Cox**, asst. def. line; **Mike Devlin**, asst. off. line; **Sam Gash**, asst. running backs/special teams; **Jim Herrmann**, linebackers; **Denny Marcin**, def. line; **Noel Mazzone**, wide receivers; **Jimmy Raye**, running backs; **Tony Wise**, off. line

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Bollinger, Brooks | QB | 6-1 | 205 | 11/15/1979 | 2 | Wisconsin |
| 3 | Kingsbury, Kliff | QB | 6-4 | 210 | 08/09/1979 | 1 | Texas Tech |
| 10 | Pennington, Chad | QB | 6-3 | 225 | 06/26/1976 | 6 | Marshall |
| 11 | Ramsey, Patrick | QB | 6-2 | 225 | 02/14/1979 | 4 | Tulane |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 77 | Cavka, Marko | T | 6-7 | 294 | 04/04/1981 | 0 | Sacramento State |
| | Clement, Anthony | T | 6-8 | 320 | 04/10/1976 | 8 | La.-Lafayette |
| 79 | Jones, Adrian | T | 6-4 | 296 | 06/10/1981 | 2 | Kansas |
| 64 | Katnik, Norm | C | 6-4 | 298 | 07/02/1981 | 0 | USC |
| 66 | Kendall, Pete | G | 6-5 | 292 | 07/09/1973 | 10 | Boston College |
| 62 | King, Michael | G | 6-3 | 298 | 06/15/1982 | 0 | Northwestern St. |
| 65 | Moore, Brandon | G | 6-3 | 295 | 06/03/1980 | 3 | Illinois |
| 76 | Morley, Steve | T | 6-7 | 330 | 08/18/1981 | 1 | St. Mary's (Canada) |
| 71 | Nienhuis, Doug | T | 6-6 | 307 | 02/16/1982 | 1 | Oregon State |
| 72 | Snell, Isaac | G | 6-6 | 288 | 11/04/1981 | 0 | North Dakota State |
| 70 | Teague, Trey | C | 6-5 | 300 | 12/27/1974 | 7 | Tennessee |
| 74 | Yates, Billy | G | 6-2 | 305 | 04/15/1980 | 2 | Texas A&M |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 35 | Askew, B.J. | RB | 6-3 | 233 | 08/19/1980 | 3 | Michigan |
| 23 | Blaylock, Derrick | RB | 5-9 | 205 | 08/23/1979 | 4 | Stephen F. Austin |
| 27 | Butler, Terry | RB | 6-1 | 200 | 08/02/1982 | 1 | Villanova |
| 34 | Houston, Cedric | RB | 6-0 | 220 | 06/28/1982 | 1 | Tennessee |
| 44 | Lawton, Luke | RB | 5-11 | 237 | 08/26/1980 | 1 | McNeese State |
| 28 | Martin, Curtis | RB | 5-11 | 210 | 05/01/1973 | 11 | Pittsburgh |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 86 | Baker, Chris | TE | 6-3 | 258 | 11/18/1979 | 4 | Michigan State |
| 87 | Coles, Laveranues | WR | 5-11 | 193 | 12/29/1977 | 6 | Florida State |
| 89 | Cotchery, Jerricho | WR | 6-0 | 207 | 06/16/1982 | 2 | N.C. State |
| 85 | Dearth, James | TE | 6-4 | 270 | 01/22/1976 | 6 | Tarleton State |
| 83 | Dreessen, Joel | TE | 6-4 | 260 | 07/26/1982 | 1 | Colorado State |
| 17 | Dwight, Tim | WR | 5-8 | 180 | 07/13/1975 | 8 | Iowa |
| 88 | Jolley, Doug | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 01/02/1979 | 4 | Brigham Young |
| 81 | McCareins, Justin | WR | 6-2 | 215 | 12/11/1978 | 5 | Northern Illinois |
| 84 | Ridgeway, Dante | WR | 6-1 | 200 | 04/18/1984 | 1 | Ball State |
| 11 | Witherspoon, Jovan | WR | 6-3 | 210 | 08/13/1981 | 0 | Central Michigan |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 96 | Ball, Dave | DE | 6-5 | 277 | 01/04/1981 | 2 | UCLA |
| 92 | Ellis, Shaun | DE | 6-5 | 285 | 06/24/1977 | 6 | Tennessee |
| 97 | Johnson, Trevor | DE | 6-4 | 260 | 02/26/1981 | 2 | Nebraska |
| 95 | McChesney, Matt | DT | 6-4 | 290 | 11/06/1981 | 1 | Colorado |
| 75 | Pope, Monsanto | DT | 6-3 | 300 | 01/27/1978 | 4 | Virginia |
| 91 | Pouha, Sione | DT | 6-3 | 325 | 02/03/1979 | 1 | Utah |
| 63 | Robertson, Dewayne | DT | 6-1 | 317 | 10/16/1981 | 3 | Kentucky |
| 99 | Thomas, Bryan | DE | 6-4 | 266 | 06/07/1979 | 4 | UAB |
| 67 | von Oelhoffen, Kimo | DT | 6-4 | 299 | 01/30/1971 | 12 | Boise State |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 36 | Barrett, David | CB | 5-10 | 195 | 12/22/1977 | 6 | Arkansas |
| 26 | Coleman, Erik | S | 5-10 | 200 | 05/06/1982 | 2 | Washington State |
| 24 | Dyson, Andre | CB | 5-10 | 183 | 05/25/1979 | 5 | Utah |
| 23 | Green, Victor | S | 5-11 | 210 | 12/08/1969 | 11 | Akron |
| 32 | Johnson, Darrien | CB | 5-11 | 215 | 05/03/1980 | 1 | Iowa |
| 22 | Miller, Justin | CB | 5-10 | 202 | 02/14/1984 | 1 | Clemson |
| 25 | Rhodes, Kerry | S | 6-3 | 210 | 08/02/1982 | 1 | Louisville |
| 21 | Strait, Derrick | CB | 5-11 | 189 | 08/27/1980 | 2 | Oklahoma |
| 42 | Washington, Rashad | S | 6-1 | 217 | 03/15/1980 | 2 | Kansas State |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 50 | Barton, Eric | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 09/29/1977 | 7 | Maryland |
| 58 | Chatham, Matt | LB | 6-4 | 250 | 06/28/1977 | 6 | South Dakota |
| 98 | Enzor, Jamar | LB | 6-1 | 238 | 12/28/1981 | 1 | Cincinnati |
| 54 | Hobson, Victor | LB | 6-0 | 252 | 02/03/1980 | 3 | Michigan |
| 55 | Kassell, Brad | LB | 6-3 | 242 | 01/07/1980 | 4 | North Texas |
| 57 | McClover, Darrell | LB | 6-2 | 226 | 08/25/1981 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| 45 | Myers, Ryan | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 02/27/1980 | 1 | Akron |
| 51 | Vilma, Jonathan | LB | 6-1 | 230 | 04/16/1982 | 2 | Miami (FL) |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 7 | Graham, Ben | P | 6-5 | 230 | 11/02/1973 | 1 | Deakin (Australia) |
| 1 | Nugent, Mike | K | 5-9 | 182 | 03/02/1982 | 1 | Ohio State |

COURTESY NFL

# AFC NORTH

## The 'Bus' has left the station, but Steelers appear positioned to make a run at providing a repeat of the repeats of their '70s glory years

By **Mark Curnutte** *Cincinnati Enquirer*

Bill Cowher finally won the big one.

But only months after the Steelers won their first Super Bowl trophy since the 1979 season, the Pittsburgh coach already is facing pressure to match his predecessor, Chuck Noll, by winning two in a row. Noll, of course, won consecutive Super Bowls twice, in 1974 and '75, and again in 1978 and '79.

The NFL's longest-tenured coach, whose career record improved to 153-91-1, was quick to try to put the pressure of repeating on one of his former assistants, Bengals Coach Marvin Lewis. Last year, Cincinnati won a division title and made the playoffs for the first time since 1990.

Asked at the league meetings in late March who was the team to beat in the division, Cowher said, "I think Cincinnati. Marvin's changed the culture over there. They expect to win when they get on the field."

So do the Steelers. A team that is annually hit by free-agent defections, Pittsburgh most often lets the right players go at the right time and has the right player groomed and ready to step into a starting role.

Cowher did the finest coaching job of his distinguished career last season, guiding the Steelers to eight consecutive victories after a home loss to Cincinnati Dec. 4. Pittsburgh was motivated to give Jerome Bettis a title and return him to his hometown of Detroit for the Super Bowl, plus the Steelers were still stinging from the disappointing AFC Championship Game loss at home to New England the year before.

Depth in the secondary and wide receiver are concerns, even after the draft. And despite a sub-par performance in the Super Bowl, Ben Roethlisberger continues to develop into one of the league's elite quarterbacks.

**PREDICTED** ORDER OF FINISH:


1 Steelers p.62

2 p.66

3 p.70

4 p.74


Almost everything is going right in Cincinnati, except for the serious knee injury suffered by Pro Bowl quarterback Carson Palmer on the Bengals' first pass play of the wild-card playoff loss to the Steelers. If Palmer's not ready to open the season, the Bengals signed Anthony Wright, a former spot starter for the Ravens. The No. 2 job will be Wright's to lose.

Palmer's health is the biggest question heading into the season. But the Bengals return a potent offense and continue to extend the contracts of their starters. If Palmer comes back healthy, Cincinnati returns its starting 11 on offense for the second year in a row.

On defense, the Bengals made a couple of key moves in free agency, signing oversized defensive tackle Sam Adams and sure-tackling strong safety Dexter Jackson.

The 2006 season is the one in which the Cleveland Browns might leapfrog Baltimore as a playoff contender. The Browns did not have any major offseason turnover—key front-office positions or head coach or coordinators—for the first time since returning as an expansion team in 1999.

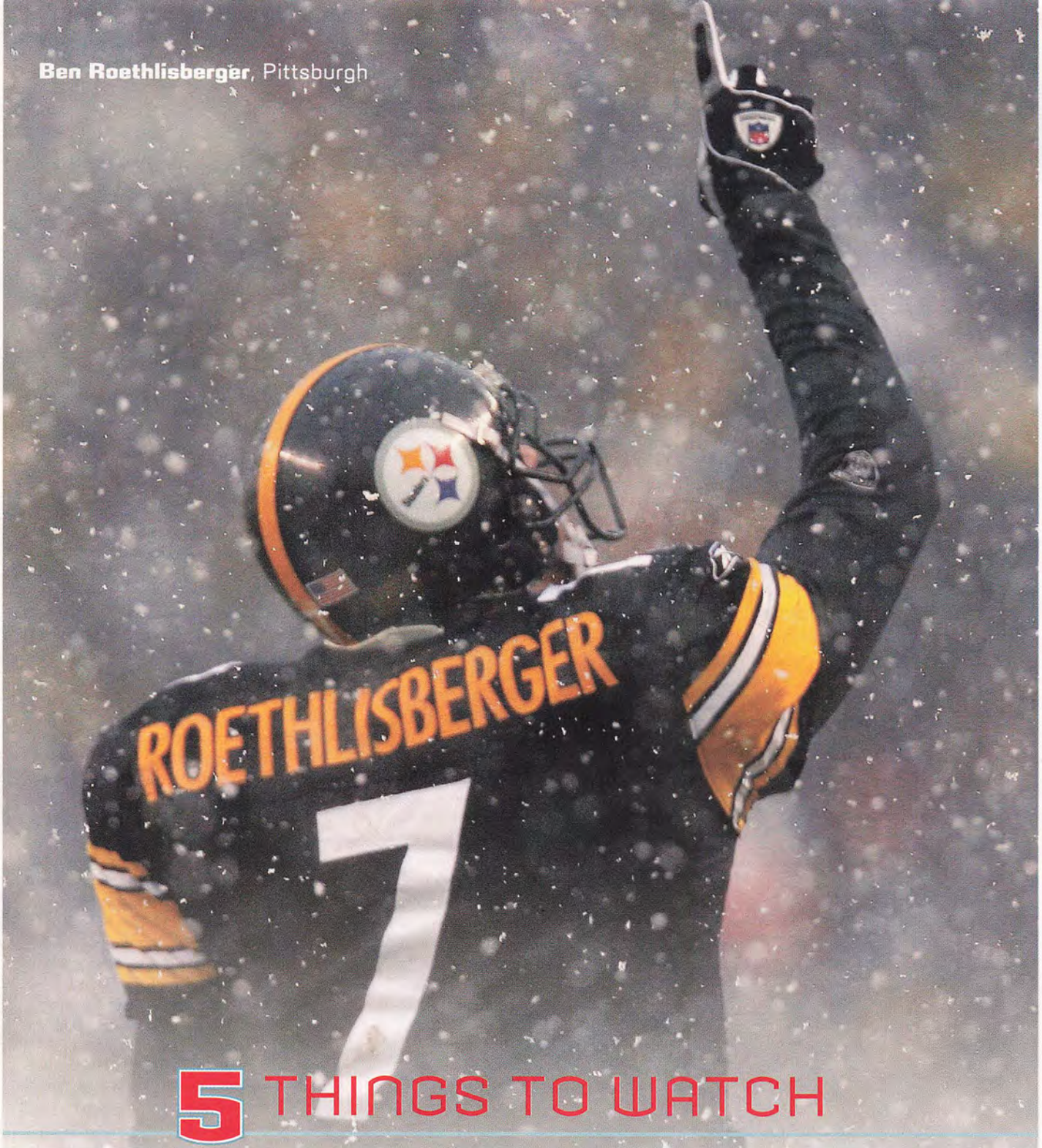
The Browns were the most active team in the division in free agency, addressing holes on the offensive line and the front seven on defense. Although they are long on experience, nose tackle Ted Washington and linebacker Willie McGinest know how to play in the 3-4 defense of Coach Romeo Crennel.

Quarterback Charlie Frye showed calm and big-play ability as a rookie, and the reins likely fell solely to him after the Browns traded an unhappy Trent Dilfer to the 49ers. Frye's job will be made a bit easier with the return from injury of a pair of former first-round picks—tight end Kellen Winslow Jr. and wide receiver Braylon Edwards.

Baltimore faces the biggest challenges in the division. Can superstar middle linebacker Ray Lewis come back from a hamstring tear and coexist with Coach Brian Billick? The Ravens also need Ed Reed, a former NFL Defensive Player of the Year, to return to form after an ankle injury. Then there's always the annual "Kyle Boller Watch" to see when the Ravens might give up on the former first-round quarterback.

If the Tennessee Titans part ways with Steve McNair, the veteran quarterback could very well end up with the Ravens. Until that might happen, the job is still Boller's. And the unsettled quarterback situation continues to slow down Baltimore's offense, despite the emergence of a talented group of receivers, including tight end Todd Heap.

The perennially feared Ravens defense will have to replace two starting linemen, Anthony Weaver (signed by Houston) and Maake Kemoeatu (Carolina), who were lost in free agency. Lewis isn't happy about the idea of playing behind smaller linemen who won't be as effective in keeping him free of blocks.




**Ben Roethlisberger**, Pittsburgh

MATTHEW EMMONS / US PRESSWIRE

# 5 THINGS TO WATCH

**1**

When will Bengals quarterback Carson Palmer return from rehab after knee-reconstruction surgery? The organization hopes it's soon so he can help face a grueling early-season schedule.

**2**

Can the Steelers repeat as Super Bowl champions? Pittsburgh is one of those sports cities where expectations run high and the pressure is always on.

**3**

Will Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis and safety Ed Reed regain the prowess that made them consecutive recipients of the league's Defensive Player of the Year? Lewis already is unhappy that Coach Brian Billick is back and that the Ravens let two big defensive linemen get away in free agency.

**4**

How much will the retirement of tailback Jerome Bettis hurt the Steelers? Can Willie Parker and the injury-plagued Duce Staley take the pounding without Bettis in the picture?

**5**

Can the Browns recapture the heart and soul of the city? General Manager Phil Savage showed his knowledge of the market by bringing back some talented free agents with Cleveland prep roots, including center LeCharles Bentley. Savage followed up with an impressive draft.

2005 RECORD: 11-5 | www.steelers.com

# PITTSBURGH STEELERS

AFC NORTH #1

HEINZ FIELD
CAPACITY: 64,450 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 412-323-1200

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 4 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 3 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| LINEBACKERS | 4 |
| SECONDARY | 3 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 4 |
| MANAGEMENT | 5 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Ben Roethlisberger | LE | Aaron Smith | P | Chris Gardocki |
| FB | Dan Kreider | NT | Casey Hampton | PR | Ricardo Colclough |
| RB | Willie Parker | RE | Brett Keisel | K | Jeff Reed |
| LT | Marvel Smith | OLB | Clark Haggans | KR | Ricardo Colclough |
| LG | Alan Faneca | ILB | James Farrior | | |
| C | Jeff Hartings | ILB | Larry Foote | | |
| RG | Kendall Simmons | OLB | Joey Porter | | |
| RT | Max Starks | LCB | Ike Taylor | | |
| TE | Heath Miller | RCB | Deshea Townsend | | |
| WR | Hines Ward | SS | Troy Polamalu | | |
| WR | Cedrick Wilson | FS | Ryan Clark | | |

ON THE RISE

**BRETT KEISEL**
defensive end
Takes over as a starter after a strong finish to the 2005 campaign.

FADING FAST

**JEFF HARTINGS**
center
Ten-year vet took a smaller contract to return and is expected to retire after '06.

# Super Steelers

Pittsburgh's steely commitment to coaching stability and opportune changes in personnel have the franchise positioned as the current envy of the league.

The Pittsburgh Steelers have arguably put together the most impressive back-to-back seasons of the free-agent era, going a remarkable 26-6 over the last two regular seasons and 5-1 in the playoffs.

They've won 31 of 38 games overall, including the franchise's fifth Super Bowl and first since the 1979 season, and they don't look like they'll be slumping anytime soon.

Few organizations in football transition from one generation of players to the next as effectively as the Steelers.

Since the mid-1990s, they've let aging, potentially overpriced veterans go at the right time and had replacements groomed and ready to replace them. This year, they let postseason stalwart Kimo von Oelhoffen depart in free agency (Jets), but have Brett Keisel ready to start at defensive end. Playing as a backup, Keisel had six tackles, two sacks and one forced fumble in the Steelers' four-game romp through last postseason.

And few clubs draft as well as Pittsburgh.

This year, the Steelers traded up from No. 32 to get the 25th overall pick and filled a major need by selecting Ohio State wide receiver Santonio Holmes, similar to how they traded up in 2003 to draft Southern Cal safety Troy Polamalu with the 16th overall pick. Holmes will work into an offensive rotation to replace free-agent loss Antwaan Randle El, who signed with the Redskins. Randle El also was a productive punt returner for the Steelers, with a 10.2-yard average and two touchdowns in 2005. So, with their second pick of the third round, Pittsburgh took all-purpose threat Willie Reid of Florida State. All Reid did was average 17.5 yards on 31 punt returns with three touchdowns in 2005 with the Seminoles.

And the Steelers, though not the most active club in free agency, wisely bring in players to fill the offseason losses.

Free safety Chris Hope left for a lucrative deal in Tennessee, but Pittsburgh signed safety Ryan Clark from the Redskins.

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## THE BOOK ON ... DUCE STALEY

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"He's solid, a very good runner. He's excellent at coming out of the backfield to catch the football. He'll probably get another chance to play a lot along with Willie Parker now that [Jerome] Bettis has retired. ...

"I like their combination of power and speed in the backfield. Staley was brought in a couple of years ago from Philadelphia to ultimately replace Bettis. Now is his time. There aren't many players in the league faster than Parker. ...

"Remember, they traded for Staley a couple of years ago and he had a fast start [707 rushing yards in the first seven games] before getting hurt. He was their starter going into training camp last year. They will give him another chance to play a lot."

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; GLENN JAMES / US PRESSWIRE

### FACT

The Steelers' 21-10 win over Seattle in Super Bowl XL was their fifth world championship, tying them with the Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers for the most in NFL history.

### STAT

Jerome Bettis finished his career with 13,662 rushing yards, fifth all-time behind Emmitt Smith (18,355), Walter Payton (16,726), Barry Sanders (15,269) and Curtis Martin (14,101).

### LOOK IT UP

Pittsburgh has a .632 winning percentage since the start of the 1992 season, tops in the NFL, and is tied with Green Bay for the most victories with 141. The Steelers have won their division a league-best eight times over that span.

### 5-YEAR WINS

### STEELERS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **CHUCK NOLL** (23 YEARS)
   **Record with Steelers:** 209-156-1
2. **BILL COWHER** (14 YEARS)
   **Record with Steelers:** 153-91-1
3. **BUDDY PARKER** (8 YEARS)
   **Record with Steelers:** 51-48-6

### THE COUNT

**101-1-1**
Bill Cowher's record in regular-season games when his team leads by 11 or more points.

**574**
The number of catches by Hines Ward in his eight years with Pittsburgh, the most in team history.

**.844**
Ben Roethlisberger's winning percentage since becoming the Steelers' starting quarterback.

## DRAFT REPORT

Then Pittsburgh drafted free safety Anthony Smith (14 career interceptions) from Syracuse in the third round. Kevin Colbert, Pittsburgh's director of football operations, swapped the 64th overall pick with Minnesota in exchange for the 83rd and 95th picks to land Smith and Reid, respectively.

Again, the Steelers have reloaded as well as any NFL team can.

But there is always concern when letting proven veterans walk.

"Not just for what they brought on the field but for what they brought off the field in all their own little ways," Steelers Coach Bill Cowher says. "It's important every year to capture that chemistry and commitment, and players have to step up."

But there was one offseason loss that may be hard to replace. Jerome Bettis retired after providing the emotional spark that motivated his teammates to get him back to his hometown of Detroit for Super Bowl XL. He was a passionate leader in the locker room and a steadying influence. Bettis was also pretty good in short yardage, scoring 27 touchdowns in a limited role over the past two seasons.

A key for the 2006 Steelers will be how they replace Bettis in the locker room and in the offense. Duce Staley, who missed 11 games while recovering from training-camp knee surgery, will be counted on to gain the tough, physical yards. Speedy Willie Parker, whose 75-yard touchdown in the Super Bowl is the longest run from scrimmage in Super Bowl history, will return as the starter after rushing for 1,202 yards. Verron Haynes ran for 274 yards, but is most effective as a third-down receiver.

Bettis retired with his previously elusive Super Bowl ring, leaving the Steelers to battle the ages-old question in the NFL: Can they repeat? It took the franchise 26 years to win its fifth Lombardi Trophy after having won four in six seasons under Chuck Noll from 1974-79.

After losing Antwaan Randle El in free agency, the Steelers were looking to add a playmaker opposite Hines Ward. So, they traded up in the first round to select the draft's top receiver in Ohio State's **Santonio Holmes**. **Anthony Smith** made numerous big plays for Syracuse last season and will help ease the loss of free safety Chris Hope. **Willie Reid** has experience at wide receiver and halfback, but really excels as a return man. **Willie Colon** is an athletic widebody who can provide depth at tackle or guard. **Orien Harris** will help ease the loss of Kimo von Oelhoffen in free agency. **Omar Jacobs** was very productive at Bowling Green, but concerns over his release and mechanics dropped him to the fifth round. **Charles Davis** is a former basketball player who will provide depth behind tight end Heath Miller. **Marvin Philip** can be groomed to replace center Jeff Hartings. **Cedric Humes** is the kind of big back the Steelers like and has the versatility to play halfback or fullback. Drafting so late in each round, the Steelers did well in addressing need with talent.

**GRADE: B-**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 25 | Holmes, Santonio | WR | 5-11 | 187 | Ohio State |
| 3 | 19 | Smith, Anthony | S | 6-0 | 193 | Syracuse |
| 3 | 31 | Reid, Willie | WR | 5-11 | 187 | Florida State |
| 4 | 34 | Colon, Willie | G | 6-2 | 320 | Hofstra |
| 4 | 36 | Harris, Orien | DT | 6-3 | 302 | Miami (FL) |
| 5 | 31 | Jacobs, Omar | QB | 6-4 | 233 | Bowling Green |
| 5 | 34 | Davis, Charles | TE | 6-5 | 254 | Purdue |
| 6 | 32 | Philip, Marvin | C | 6-1 | 306 | California |
| 7 | 32 | Humes, Cedric | RB | 6-0 | 227 | Virginia Tech |

### 2006 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. Miami
SEPT. 7 8:30
★ MUST-SEE GAME ★
*The Steelers, per recent NFL tradition, will play host, as defending Super Bowl champions, to the Thursday night season opener vs. the fast-improving Fins.*
SCORE

**WEEK 2** @ Jacksonville
SEPT. 18 8:30
SCORE

**WEEK 3** vs. Cincinnati
SEPT. 24 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 4** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 5** @ San Diego
OCT. 8 8:15
SCORE

**WEEK 6** vs. Kansas City
OCT. 15 4:15
SCORE

**WEEK 7** @ Atlanta
OCT. 22 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 8** @ Oakland
OCT. 29 4:15
SCORE

**WEEK 9** vs. Denver
NOV. 5 4:15
SCORE

**WEEK 10** vs. New Orleans
NOV. 12 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 11** @ Cleveland
NOV. 19 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 12** @ Baltimore
NOV. 26 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 13** vs. Tampa Bay
DEC. 3 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 14** vs. Cleveland
DEC. 7 8:00
SCORE

**WEEK 15** @ Carolina
DEC. 17 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 16** vs. Baltimore
DEC. 24 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 17** @ Cincinnati
DEC. 31 1:00
SCORE

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | W | 34-7 | Tennessee |
| 09/18 | W | 27-7 | at Houston |
| 09/25 | L | 20-23 | New England |
| 10/10 | W | 24-22 | at San Diego |
| 10/16 | L | 17-23 | Jacksonville |
| 10/23 | W | 27-13 | at Cincinnati |
| 10/31 | W | 20-19 | Baltimore |
| 11/06 | W | 20-10 | at Green Bay |
| 11/13 | W | 34-21 | Cleveland |
| 11/20 | L | 13-16 | at Baltimore |
| 11/28 | L | 7-26 | at Indianapolis |
| 12/04 | L | 31-38 | Cincinnati |
| 12/11 | W | 21-9 | Chicago |
| 12/18 | W | 18-3 | at Minnesota |
| 12/24 | W | 41-0 | at Cleveland |
| 01/01 | W | 35-21 | Detroit |

WON **11**, LOST **5**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parker | 255 | 1202 | 4.7 | 80t | 4 |
| Bettis | 110 | 368 | 3.3 | 39 | 9 |
| Haynes | 74 | 274 | 3.7 | 20 | 3 |
| Staley | 38 | 148 | 3.9 | 17 | 1 |
| Randle El | 12 | 73 | 6.1 | 43 | 0 |
| Roethlisberger | 31 | 69 | 2.2 | 13 | 3 |
| Batch | 11 | 30 | 2.7 | 15 | 1 |
| Maddox | 8 | 26 | 3.3 | 16 | 0 |
| Kreider | 3 | 21 | 7.0 | 12 | 0 |
| Ward | 3 | 10 | 3.3 | 7 | 0 |
| Herron | 3 | 2 | 0.7 | 1 | 0 |
| Wilson | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Steelers** | **549** | **2223** | **4.0** | **80t** | **21** |
| **Opponents** | **402** | **1376** | **3.4** | **36** | **10** |

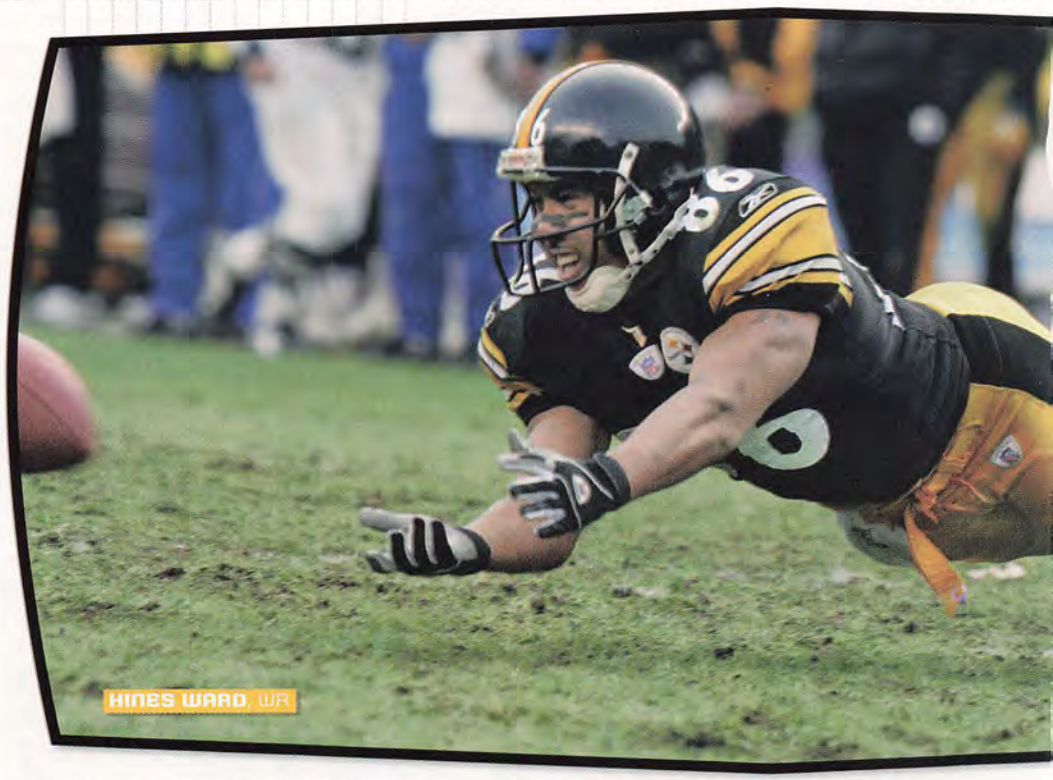
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ward | 69 | 975 | 14.1 | 85t | 11 |
| Miller | 39 | 459 | 11.8 | 50 | 6 |
| Randle El | 35 | 558 | 15.9 | 63t | 1 |
| Wilson | 26 | 451 | 17.3 | 46 | 0 |
| Parker | 18 | 218 | 12.1 | 48 | 1 |
| Haynes | 11 | 113 | 10.3 | 18 | 0 |
| Morgan | 9 | 150 | 16.7 | 31t | 2 |
| Kreider | 7 | 43 | 6.1 | 9 | 0 |
| Staley | 6 | 34 | 5.7 | 9 | 0 |
| Bettis | 4 | 40 | 10.0 | 16 | 0 |
| Tuman | 3 | 57 | 19.0 | 27 | 0 |
| Kranchick | 1 | 6 | 6.0 | 6 | 0 |
| **Steelers** | **228** | **3104** | **13.6** | **85t** | **21** |
| **Opponents** | **315** | **3480** | **11.0** | **80t** | **15** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Roethlisberger | 268 | 168 | 2385 | 17 | 9 |
| Maddox | 71 | 34 | 406 | 2 | 4 |
| Batch | 36 | 23 | 246 | 1 | 1 |
| Randle El | 3 | 3 | 67 | 1 | 0 |
| Gardocki | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Steelers** | **379** | **228** | **3104** | **21** | **14** |
| **Opponents** | **549** | **315** | **3480** | **15** | **15** |

**SACKS**

Porter 10.5, Haggans 9, von Oelhoffen 3.5, Harrison 3, Foote 3, Keisel 3, Polamalu 3, Townsend 3, A. Smith 2, Farrior 2, Carter 1, Colclough 1, Frazier 1, Kirschke 1, McFadden 1

**Steelers 47, Opponents 32**


HINES WARD, WR

Cowher, a Pittsburgh-area native, is well aware of the Steelers' repeat history and he'd like to join the back-to-back tradition.

"It's going to be an unbelievable challenge in front of us as well," he says. "But I think our guys kind of want to separate themselves. I think we're all relishing that opportunity."

Cowher has a lot of talent coming back to work with, both on the field and the sidelines.

Offensive Coordinator Ken Whisenhunt continued to use his talent creatively—the playoff flea flicker against the Bengals, for example—but stayed true to the Steelers' punishing run game, as his offense finished fifth in the league in rushing. He turned down Al Davis' offer to coach the Raiders to stay in Pittsburgh for at least another season.

Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger won the Super Bowl in just his second season, when, unlike his rookie year, he was more than a caretaker. All he does is win. As a starter he is 22-3 in the regular season and 5-1 in the postseason.

And he was especially productive during the stretch of eight consecutive victories that lifted his team from playoff pretender at 7-5 to Super Bowl champion at 15-5. When the Steelers needed him most, in their three consecutive AFC playoff wins on the road—Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Denver—Roethlisberger was 54-for-72, passing for 680 yards, eight touchdowns and one interception.

At wide receiver, Super Bowl MVP Hines Ward, who was also voted co-MVP of the Steelers, had 69 receptions in the regular season for 975 yards and 11 touchdowns. Ward added 15 receptions for 260 yards and three more touchdowns in the postseason, and he remains one of the NFL's best blocking wideouts in the running game.

Ageless Defensive Coordinator Dick LeBeau, who will turn 69 in September, has pumped new life into the Steeler defense since his return as coordinator two seasons ago. His zone-blitz philosophy, developed during his first tenure as a Pittsburgh assistant and coordinator in the mid-1990s, perfectly fits the talent he has to work with in the team's 3-4

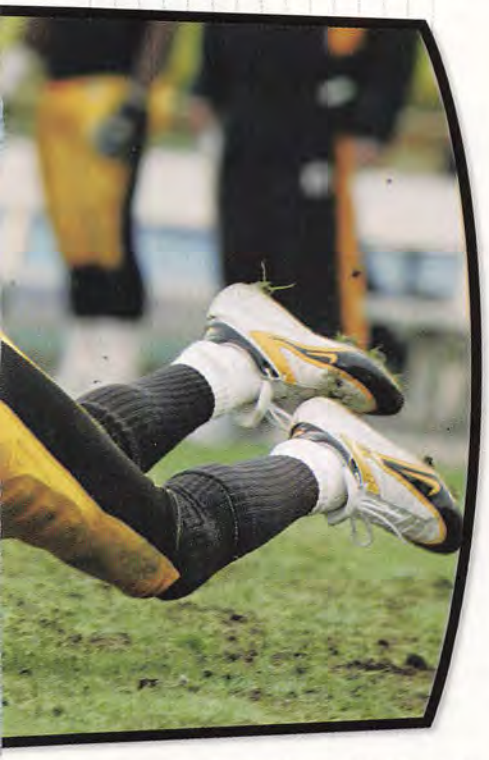
## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Steelers)*

"What strikes you most about the Steelers is just how solid they are in all areas. They run the football, they make plays in the play-action pass game, they are productive on defense and don't give up a lot of plays. ...

"They are explosive in the kicking game and strong on special teams, but they are going to have a challenge replacing such a talented player as [wide receiver, former QB and punt-return man] Antwaan Randle El. ...

"Cincinnati is a hell of a team, but Pittsburgh is coming out sporting those Super Bowl rings. Until that [situation] changes, they're the favorite in the conference and in the league."



(L TO R): MARK HAWKINS; COURTESY NFL (2)

alignment. The Steelers ranked first in the league in total defense in 2004 and were fourth in 2005.

LeBeau has made the most of his talent, including Polamalu, who can blitz, play the run and cover equally well. He had two interceptions and three sacks in 2005, while contributing 100 tackles. Outside linebacker Joey Porter posted his second career double-digit sack season with 10.5.

For all of the playmakers on the Steelers' defense, nose tackle Casey Hampton was voted to share team MVP honors with Ward. Hampton had just 44 total tackles in the regular season, but he occupies blockers and keeps the team's active linebackers free from blocks.

The stability and consistency on the field starts at the top with the Steelers. Owner Dan Rooney gave Cowher a contract extension before the 2004 season. Cowher was 6-10 in 2003. And since 1992, when Rooney hired Cowher—the franchise's second coach since 1969—the other NFL teams have made more than 90 coaching changes. "I really feel that when you're changing coaches," Rooney says, "it's almost like you're an expansion team starting over again."

With 10 playoff appearances in the past 14 years under Cowher, the Steelers are the NFL's furthest thing from expansion.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Ryan Clark**, DB (WAS)
- **Rodney Bailey**, DE (SEA)
- **Doug Easlick**, FB (SF)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Antwaan Randle El**, WR (WAS)
- **Chris Hope**, DB (TEN)
- **Kimo von Oelhoffen**, DE (NYJ)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 321.8 | 15t |
| Rushing | 138.9 | 5 |
| Passing | 182.9 | 24 |
| Scoring | 389 | 9 |
| Punt Returns | 10.2 | 3 |
| Kick Returns | 21.6 | 20t |
| Red Zone TD % | 60.7 | 5t |
| Total Defense | 284.0 | 4 |
| Against Rush | 86.0 | 3 |
| Against Pass | 198.0 | 16 |
| Points Allowed | 258 | 3t |
| Interceptions | 15 | 19t |
| Sacks | 47 | 3t |
| Turnover Diff. | +7 | 9t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 297 | 120 | 144 | 33 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 56 | 301 | 34 | 21 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | 21 | 2 | 1 |

## STEELERS ROSTER

**Bill Cowher, head coach**; **Dick LeBeau**, def. coord.; **Ken Whisenhunt**, off. coord.; **Russ Grimm**, asst. head coach/off. line; **Bruce Arians**, wide receivers; **Keith Butler**, linebackers; **James Daniel**, tight ends; **Dick Hoak**, running backs; **Ray Horton**, asst. def. backs; **John Mitchell**, def. line; **Darren Perry**, def. backs; **Kevin Spencer**, special teams; **Mark Whipple**, quarterbacks

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | Batch, Charlie | QB | 6-2 | 216 | 12/05/1974 | 6 | Eastern Michigan |
| 7 | Roethlisberger, Ben | QB | 6-5 | 241 | 03/02/1982 | 2 | Miami (OH) |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 72 | Brooks, Barrett | T | 6-4 | 325 | 05/05/1972 | 9 | Kansas State |
| 79 | Essex, Trai | T | 6-4 | 324 | 12/05/1982 | 1 | Northwestern |
| 66 | Faneca, Alan | G | 6-5 | 307 | 12/07/1976 | 8 | LSU |
| 64 | Hartings, Jeff | C | 6-3 | 299 | 09/07/1972 | 10 | Penn State |
| 68 | Kemoeatu, Chris | G | 6-3 | 344 | 01/04/1983 | 0 | Utah |
| 56 | Okobi, Chukky | C | 6-1 | 318 | 10/18/1978 | 5 | Purdue |
| 73 | Simmons, Kendall | G | 6-3 | 319 | 03/11/1979 | 3 | Auburn |
| 77 | Smith, Marvel | T | 6-5 | 321 | 08/06/1978 | 6 | Arizona State |
| 78 | Starks, Max | T | 6-8 | 337 | 01/10/1982 | 2 | Florida |
| 60 | Warren, Greg | C | 6-3 | 252 | 10/18/1981 | 1 | North Carolina |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| | Doug Easlick | FB | 5-11 | 243 | 12/04/1980 | 3 | Virginia Tech |
| 34 | Haynes, Verron | RB | 5-9 | 222 | 02/17/1979 | 4 | Georgia |
| 35 | Kreider, Dan | RB | 5-11 | 255 | 03/11/1977 | 6 | New Hampshire |
| 39 | Parker, Willie | RB | 5-10 | 209 | 11/11/1980 | 2 | North Carolina |
| 22 | Staley, Duce | RB | 5-11 | 242 | 02/27/1975 | 9 | South Carolina |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 19 | Baker, Eugene | WR | 6-1 | 183 | 03/18/1976 | 3 | Kent State |
| 47 | Battaglia, Marco | TE | 6-3 | 250 | 01/25/1973 | 8 | Rutgers |
| 89 | Mays, Lee | WR | 6-2 | 193 | 09/18/1978 | 3 | UTEP |
| 83 | Miller, Heath | TE | 6-5 | 256 | 10/22/1982 | 1 | Virginia |
| 81 | Morey, Sean | WR | 5-11 | 200 | 02/26/1976 | 4 | Brown |
| 11 | Morgan, Quincy | WR | 6-1 | 215 | 09/23/1977 | 5 | Kansas State |
| 84 | Tuman, Jerame | TE | 6-4 | 253 | 03/24/1976 | 7 | Michigan |
| 86 | Ward, Hines | WR | 6-0 | 215 | 03/08/1976 | 8 | Georgia |
| 85 | Washington, Nate | WR | 6-1 | 185 | 08/28/1983 | 1 | Tiffin |
| 80 | Wilson, Cedrick | WR | 5-10 | 183 | 12/17/1978 | 5 | Tennessee |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 95 | Bailey, Rodney | DE | 6-3 | 305 | 10/07/1979 | 4 | Ohio State |
| 98 | Hampton, Casey | NT | 6-1 | 325 | 09/03/1977 | 5 | Texas |
| 76 | Hoke, Chris | DT | 6-3 | 296 | 04/06/1976 | 2 | Brigham Young |
| 99 | Keisel, Brett | DE | 6-5 | 285 | 09/19/1978 | 3 | Brigham Young |
| 90 | Kirschke, Travis | DT | 6-3 | 298 | 09/06/1974 | 8 | UCLA |
| 96 | Nua, Shaun | DE | 6-5 | 280 | 05/22/1981 | 0 | Brigham Young |
| 91 | Smith, Aaron | DE | 6-5 | 298 | 04/09/1976 | 7 | Northern Colorado |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 23 | Carter, Tyrone | S | 5-8 | 190 | 03/31/1976 | 6 | Minnesota |
| 25 | Clark, Ryan | S | 5-11 | 205 | 10/12/1979 | 4 | LSU |
| 21 | Colclough, Ricardo | CB | 5-11 | 186 | 04/18/1982 | 2 | Tusculum |
| 29 | Iwuoma, Chidi | CB | 5-8 | 184 | 02/19/1978 | 5 | California |
| 31 | Logan, Mike | S | 6-1 | 211 | 09/15/1974 | 9 | West Virginia |
| 20 | McFadden, Bryant | CB | 5-11 | 190 | 11/21/1981 | 1 | Florida State |
| 43 | Polamalu, Troy | S | 5-10 | 212 | 04/19/1981 | 3 | USC |
| 24 | Taylor, Ike | CB | 6-1 | 191 | 05/05/1980 | 3 | La.-Lafayette |
| 26 | Townsend, Deshea | CB | 5-10 | 190 | 09/08/1975 | 8 | Alabama |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 51 | Farrior, James | LB | 6-2 | 243 | 01/06/1975 | 9 | Virginia |
| 50 | Foote, Larry | LB | 6-0 | 239 | 06/12/1980 | 4 | Michigan |
| 94 | Frazier, Andre | LB | 6-5 | 234 | 06/29/1982 | 1 | Cincinnati |
| 53 | Haggans, Clark | LB | 6-4 | 243 | 01/10/1977 | 6 | Colorado State |
| 46 | Harrison, Arnold | LB | 6-3 | 236 | 10/20/1982 | 0 | Georgia |
| 92 | Harrison, James | LB | 6-0 | 242 | 05/04/1978 | 3 | Kent State |
| 57 | Kriewaldt, Clint | LB | 6-1 | 248 | 03/16/1976 | 7 | Wis.-Stevens Pt. |
| 55 | Porter, Joey | LB | 6-3 | 250 | 03/22/1977 | 7 | Colorado State |
| 54 | Wallace, Rian | LB | 6-2 | 243 | 05/24/1982 | 1 | Temple |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 17 | Gardocki, Chris | P | 6-1 | 192 | 02/07/1970 | 15 | Clemson |
| 3 | Reed, Jeff | K | 5-11 | 232 | 04/09/1979 | 4 | North Carolina |

2005 RECORD: 11-5 | www.bengals.com

# CINCINNATI BENGALS

AFC NORTH #2

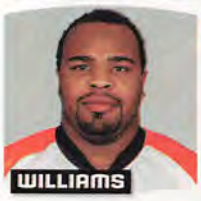
PAUL BROWN STADIUM
CAPACITY: 65,535 | TURF: ARTIFICIAL | TICKETS: 866-621-8383

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 3 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 4 |
| RECEIVERS | 4 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| LINEBACKERS | 3 |
| SECONDARY | 3 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 4 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Carson Palmer | LE | Justin Smith | P | Kyle Larson |
| FB | Jeremi Johnson | LT | Bryan Robinson | PR | Antonio Chatman |
| RB | Rudi Johnson | RT | Sam Adams | H | Shayne Graham |
| LT | Levi Jones | RE | Robert Geathers | KR | Tab Perry |
| LG | Eric Steinbach | SLB | David Pollack | | |
| C | Rich Braham | MLB | Odell Thurman | | |
| RG | Bobbie Williams | WLB | Brian Simmons | | |
| RT | Willie Anderson | LCB | Deltha O'Neal | | |
| TE | Reggie Kelly | RCB | Tory James | | |
| WR | Chad Johnson | SS | Dexter Jackson | | |
| WR | T.J. Houshmandzadeh | FS | Madieu Williams | | |




**ON THE RISE**

**BOBBIE WILLIAMS**
right guard
The former Philadelphia backup is a perfect fit for the Bengals' offense.

**FADING FAST**

**TORY JAMES**
cornerback
He lost a critical half-step in the last half of the 2005 season and teams now throw at him.

# Weathering the storm

Coach Marvin Lewis hopes his Bengals are good and mature enough to hold the line while waiting on quarterback Carson Palmer's return.

Just about everything was going as planned for the Cincinnati Bengals until the first pass play of their first playoff game in 15 years. Less than two weeks after signing a contract extension for $118.75 million through 2014, quarterback Carson Palmer was writhing on the Paul Brown Stadium FieldTurf in pain.

Then-Steelers defensive end Kimo von Oelhoffen had hit Palmer low, crushing the outside of Palmer's left knee and tearing two ligaments, the anterior cruciate and medial collateral.

Palmer and Coach Marvin Lewis say the quarterback is ahead of schedule, but whether that diagnosis means Palmer will be ready for the opener Sept. 10 against the Chiefs is still not known.

With games at Kansas City and Pittsburgh and home games with Cleveland and New England, the Bengals face a critical four-game opening stretch before their bye. There's just as much chance Palmer will not play as he might. The opener will come exactly eight months after Palmer underwent surgery in Houston. Despite optimistic news on his rehab, there's another medical opinion that the window is just too tight for Palmer to be ready.

How the Bengals handle the likelihood of playing without their Pro Bowl quarterback will measure exactly how far the club has come in three years under Lewis. Can other Bengals players, primarily in the run game and on defense, elevate their performances to compensate for Palmer's absence?

"Other guys have to step up; they have to expand their roles," is Lewis' common refrain when a starting player goes down with injury.

The Bengals had a busy, productive offseason, though there's no denying pundits would think better of their chances to repeat as AFC North champions if not for Palmer's uncertain health status.

The club signed a space-eating defensive tackle in Sam Adams, who, despite 12 years in the league, should help stabilize the run defense by occupying two blockers and keeping undersized middle linebacker Odell Thurman clean. Thurman led the team with 148 total tackles in 2005, while contributing five interceptions and four forced fumbles. The Bengals also signed another defensive starter in strong safety Dexter Jackson, the MVP of Super Bowl XXXVII when he was with Tampa Bay. Jackson adds another locker-room presence, as well as a sure tackler.

The defense also figures to be better this coming season for a few other reasons.

One is David Pollack, the 2005 first-round draft pick who will benefit from a full training camp. He missed all 21 days of

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## THE BOOK ON ... DAVID POLLACK

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"He clearly has his best football ahead of him. He missed a lot of time as a rookie [a contract holdout prevented him from attending even one training-camp practice]. It's hard enough to adjust to the NFL in the same position you played in college. He had to adjust to the NFL and adjust to a new position [linebacker] as a rookie. ...

"The Bengals need to isolate him in key areas, like pass rusher, and use his ability as an instinctive football player. He had a strong game, probably his best, in the playoffs. With a whole training camp and the contract stuff behind him, he should pick up where he left off [last season]."

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; G. NEWMAN LOWRANCE / WIRE IMAGE.COM

**FACT**

The Bengals started the 2005 season by winning their first four games, the longest season-opening win streak since 1988, when they started the year 6-0. Those seasons also resulted in Cincinnati's last two division titles.

**STAT**

The Bengals became the first team since the 1970 Kansas City Chiefs to have three games with five or more interceptions in a season.

**LOOK IT UP**

The Bengals have won eight straight games over NFC teams. Their last loss to an NFC opponent was against St. Louis on Dec. 21, 2003.

**5-YEAR WINS**

**BENGALS' BEST-EVER COACHES**

1. PAUL BROWN (8 YEARS) — **Record with Bengals:** 55-59-1
2. FORREST GREGG (4 YEARS) — **Record with Bengals:** 34-27
3. MARVIN LEWIS (3 YEARS) — **Record with Bengals:** 27-22

**THE COUNT**

**6**
Fumbles lost, the fewest in the league last season and in franchise history.

**21**
Sacks allowed last season, the fewest in team history.

**1990**
The last time the Bengals won a playoff game (41-14 against the Houston Oilers in a wild-card contest).

camp as a rookie in a contract holdout and just when he caught up in October, Pollack suffered a knee sprain that caused him to miss two games. Pollack rounded back into shape and had the best game of his career in the playoff loss to Pittsburgh, making 10 tackles and a sack.

Cincinnati also gets free safety Madieu Williams back. Beginning his third year, Williams is pound-for-pound the best defensive player on the roster, but missed all but four games in 2005 because of a torn labrum that required surgery. He adds an effective deep safety with cornerback skills against the pass and is an outstanding tackler versus the run.

Then, on draft weekend—without any glaring holes on either side of the ball—the Bengals used four of their first five picks on defensive players. Their first selection, former South Carolina cornerback Johnathan Joseph, will have time to develop because the team already has starting corners in Pro Bowl pick Deltha O'Neal and Tory James, who is heading into the last year of his deal. James could be replaced in 2007 by either Joseph or third-year cornerback Keiwan Ratliff.

The Bengals' third-round pick, defensive end Frostee Rucker of USC, could add pop to the pass rush and is solid against the run. He joins a rotation with slimmed-down speed rusher Robert Geathers and steady-but-not-spectacular Justin Smith. Smith's contract, like James', will expire after the 2006 season.

The Bengals finished the season ranked 20th against the run (115.6 yards per game) and improved in that area as the season wore on. But they slumped against the pass, primarily because they had to play their strong safety closer to the line of scrimmage to defend the run, and gave up 335 or more passing yards in three of their final seven games. During that stretch, the Bengals also

## NFL DRAFT 2006 DRAFT REPORT

Entering the draft, the needs were most pressing at tight end and defensive tackle, but the Bengals surprised by not taking a tight end and waiting until the fourth round to select defensive tackle **Domata Peko**. Cincinnati selected **Johnathan Joseph**, a terrific athlete but very inexperienced cornerback, in the first round. **Andrew Whitworth** was a four-year starter at LSU, but lacks agility and overall athletic ability to remain at left tackle. **Frostee Rucker** flashed pass-rushing potential at Southern Cal, but lacked consistency. **A.J. Nicholson** was productive for Florida State, but struggled with off-the-field conduct. **Reggie McNeal** is a tremendous athlete, but it remains to be seen if he has what it takes to stay at quarterback in the NFL. **Ethan Kilmer** did little to excite on college game days, but impressed in his athletic workout prior to the draft. Athletic **Bennie Brazell** will be a project at wide receiver. The inability to add a tight end drops the final grade.

GRADE: **C-**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 24 | Joseph, Johnathan | CB | 5-11 | 192 | South Carolina |
| 2 | 23 | Whitworth, Andrew | T | 6-7 | 327 | LSU |
| 3 | 27 | Rucker, Frostee | DE | 6-3 | 267 | USC |
| 4 | 26 | Peko, Domata | DT | 6-3 | 306 | Michigan State |
| 5 | 24 | Nicholson, A.J. | LB | 6-1 | 253 | Florida State |
| 6 | 24 | McNeal, Reggie | QB | 6-2 | 197 | Texas A&M |
| 7 | 1 | Kilmer, Ethan | WR | 6-0 | 205 | Penn State |
| 7 | 23 | Brazell, Bennie | WR | 6-1 | 173 | LSU |

### 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 1 @ Kansas City | SEPT. 10 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 2 vs. Cleveland | SEPT. 17 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 3 @ Pittsburgh | SEPT. 24 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 4 vs. New England | OCT. 1 | 4:15 SCORE |
| WEEK 5 *OPEN DATE* | | |
| WEEK 6 @ Tampa Bay | OCT. 15 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 7 vs. Carolina | OCT. 22 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 8 vs. Atlanta | OCT. 29 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 9 @ Baltimore | NOV. 5 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 10 vs. San Diego | NOV. 12 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 11 @ New Orleans | NOV. 19 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 12 @ Cleveland | NOV. 26 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 13 vs. Baltimore | NOV. 30 | 8:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 14 vs. Oakland | DEC. 10 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 15 @ Indianapolis | DEC. 18 | 8:30 |

★ MUST-SEE GAME ★

*Carson Palmer should be back and locked into his rhythm by the time this "Monday Night Football" shootout kicks off.*

SCORE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 16 @ Denver | DEC. 24 | 4:15 SCORE |
| WEEK 17 vs. Pittsburgh | DEC. 31 | 1:00 SCORE |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | W | 27-13 | at Cleveland |
| 09/18 | W | 37-8 | Minnesota |
| 09/25 | W | 24-7 | at Chicago |
| 10/02 | W | 16-10 | Houston |
| 10/09 | L | 20-23 | at Jacksonville |
| 10/16 | W | 31-23 | at Tennessee |
| 10/23 | L | 13-27 | Pittsburgh |
| 10/30 | W | 21-14 | Green Bay |
| 11/06 | W | 21-9 | at Baltimore |
| 11/20 | L | 37-45 | Indianapolis |
| 11/27 | W | 42-29 | Baltimore |
| 12/04 | W | 38-31 | at Pittsburgh |
| 12/11 | W | 23-20 | Cleveland |
| 12/18 | W | 41-17 | at Detroit |
| 12/24 | L | 27-37 | Buffalo |
| 01/01 | L | 3-37 | at Kansas City |

WON **11**, LOST **5**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R. Johnson | 337 | 1458 | 4.3 | 33 | 12 |
| C. Perry | 61 | 279 | 4.6 | 30 | 0 |
| Houshmandzadeh | 8 | 62 | 7.8 | 17 | 1 |
| Palmer | 34 | 41 | 1.2 | 14 | 1 |
| C. Johnson | 5 | 33 | 6.6 | 11 | 0 |
| J. Johnson | 8 | 14 | 1.8 | 5 | 0 |
| Kitna | 2 | 14 | 7.0 | 11 | 0 |
| T. Perry | 3 | 9 | 3.0 | 7 | 1 |
| Luchey | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Bengals** | **459** | **1910** | **4.2** | **33** | **15** |
| **Opponents** | **429** | **1850** | **4.3** | **49t** | **16** |

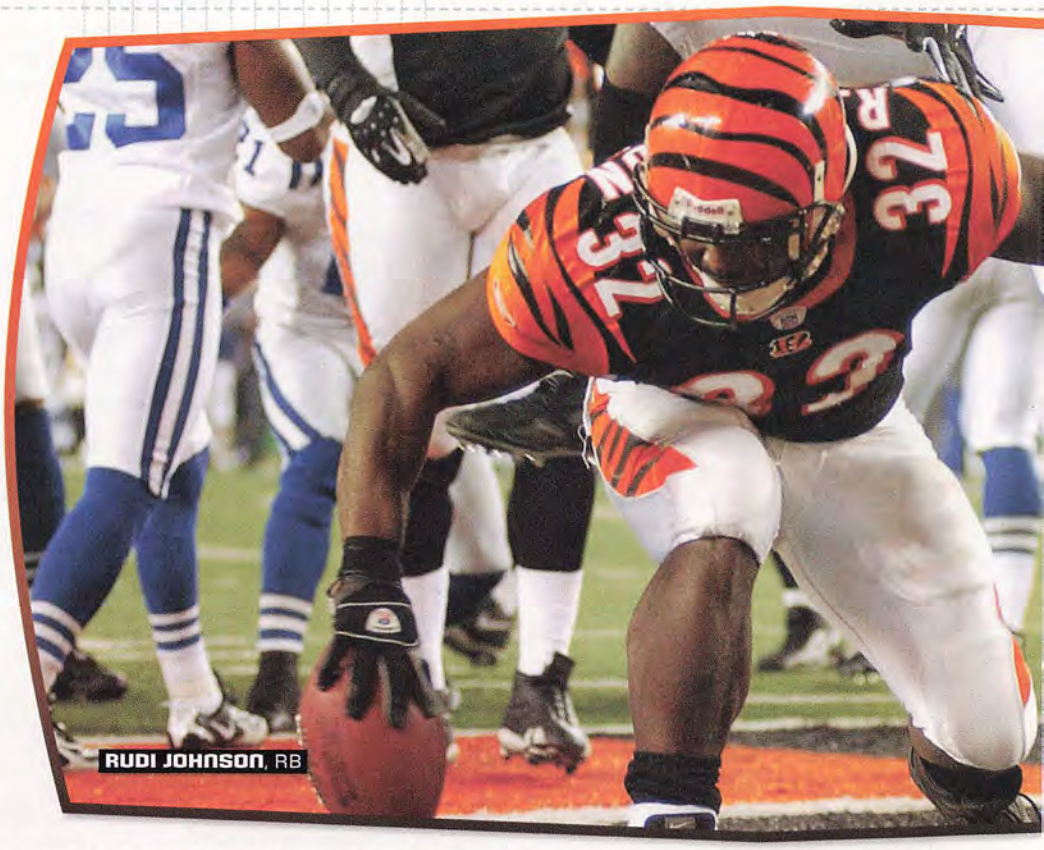
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C. Johnson | 97 | 1432 | 14.8 | 70t | 9 |
| Houshmandzadeh | 78 | 956 | 12.3 | 43t | 7 |
| C. Perry | 51 | 328 | 6.4 | 28 | 2 |
| Henry | 31 | 422 | 13.6 | 47 | 6 |
| R. Johnson | 23 | 90 | 3.9 | 15 | 0 |
| Walter | 19 | 211 | 11.1 | 33 | 1 |
| Schobel | 18 | 193 | 10.7 | 28 | 1 |
| Kelly | 15 | 90 | 6.0 | 16 | 1 |
| J. Johnson | 12 | 65 | 5.4 | 27t | 3 |
| Washington | 10 | 101 | 10.1 | 18t | 1 |
| T. Perry | 4 | 21 | 5.3 | 13 | 1 |
| Stewart | 4 | 26 | 6.5 | 10 | 0 |
| **Bengals** | **362** | **3935** | **10.9** | **70t** | **32** |
| **Opponents** | **324** | **3749** | **11.6** | **68t** | **21** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Palmer | 509 | 345 | 3836 | 32 | 12 |
| Kitna | 29 | 17 | 99 | 0 | 2 |
| **Bengals** | **538** | **362** | **3935** | **32** | **14** |
| **Opponents** | **519** | **324** | **3749** | **21** | **31** |

**SACKS**

J. Smith 6, Pollack 4.5, Simmons 4, Geathers 3, Clemons 2, Thornton 2, Thurman 1.5, Kaesviharn 1, Mitchell 1, Powell 1

**Bengals 28, Opponents 21**


RUDI JOHNSON, RB

allowed 14 of their 21 touchdown passes. The pass defense, despite leading the league with 31 interceptions, slumped to a No. 26 ranking in yards allowed (223.1 per game).

There were no such inconsistencies of deficiencies on offense.

The Bengals finished sixth overall in yards per game (358.1) and fourth in points per game (26.3). Despite a talented supporting cast of skilled players and a powerful line that allowed a single-season franchise-low 21 sacks, the Bengals might not be able to rack up that many yards and points without Palmer under center.

After dancing with the likes of free agent Brian Griese and entering the sweepstakes for Joey Harrington, the Bengals signed Baltimore unrestricted free agent Anthony Wright as an insurance policy. Wright has a strong-enough arm to allow the Bengals to employ the deep passing game so successful with Palmer. Wright also has experience as a spot starter and backup, having won five of seven starts in driving the Ravens to the AFC North title in 2003.

The Bengals also extended the contracts of three offensive starters: fullback Jeremi Johnson, wide receiver Chad Johnson and right guard Bobbie Williams. Including Palmer, the Bengals return all 11 of their offensive starters for the second consecutive season, and that continuity under sixth-year Offensive Coordinator Bob Bratkowski is a major reason for the consistent production.

If he opens the season as the starter, Wright will be asked to avoid turnovers. The Bengals might lean on their run game a little more than in the two previous seasons under Palmer. It's a good option. Rudi Johnson has rushed for a total of 24 touchdowns and more than 2,900 yards in the past two seasons. And despite knee-cleanout surgery in late April, third-year tailback Chris Perry is expected to return to full strength for training camp. Perry had 51

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Bengals)*

"Cincinnati clearly will be a better football team, provided [quarterback] Carson Palmer is able to come back relatively early in the season. The offense could be just as consistent and dangerous as it was last season if Palmer gets back. The real key for the Bengals to take the next step is their defense. They look like they helped themselves with [defensive tackle] Sam Adams and [safety] Dexter Jackson, who should fill in some weak spots. They've got some good, young players at linebacker [Odell Thurman and David Pollack], and getting [free safety] Madieu Williams back should help a lot."

(L TO R): HOWIE MCCORMICK / ICON SMI; COURTESY NFL

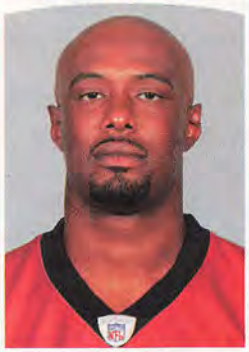
receptions and two touchdowns last season, with two long receiving scores getting called back because of iffy penalties away from the play.

The offensive line is one of the league's best, but trouble could soon be brewing there. The contracts of four of the five starters, with the exception of Williams, will expire after the 2006 season. Center Rich Braham, despite playing at a high level, is expected to retire after next season, his 13th. But tackles Willie Anderson and Levi Jones and left guard Eric Steinbach all want contract extensions.

The Bengals might be able to only sign two of the three, and Anderson—despite three consecutive Pro Bowl berths—might be the odd man out because of his age (he'll be 31 in July). Steinbach might be the most valuable of the lot because of his versatility. He started one game at left tackle (where he actually might be better suited to play because of his quickness) and filled in well at center when Braham and backup Larry Moore were injured in the first half against Houston.

Those issues, though, are secondary to the questions of if and when Palmer might return and how he will perform when back in the lineup.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS



- **Dexter Jackson**, DB (TB)
- **Sam Adams**, DT (BUF)
- **Antonio Chatman**, WR (GB)
- **Anthony Wright**, QB (BAL)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Matt Schobel**, TE (PHI)
- **Jon Kitna**, QB (DET)
- **Kevin Walter**, WR (HOU)
- **Nate Webster**, LB (DEN)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 358.1 | 6 |
| Rushing | 119.4 | 11 |
| Passing | 238.8 | 5 |
| Scoring | 421 | 4 |
| Punt Returns | 5.6 | 31t |
| Kick Returns | 23.6 | 9 |
| Red Zone TD % | 56.5 | 11 |
| Total Defense | 338.7 | 28 |
| Against Rush | 115.6 | 20 |
| Against Pass | 223.1 | 26 |
| Points Allowed | 350 | 22 |
| Interceptions | 31 | 1 |
| Sacks | 28 | 28t |
| Turnover Diff. | +24 | 1 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 342 | 109 | 203 | 30 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 62 | 306 | 35 | 20 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | 32 | 0 | 1 |

## BENGALS ROSTER

**Marvin Lewis, head coach**; **Paul Alexander**, asst. head coach/off. line; **Jim Anderson**, running backs; **Bob Bratkowski**, off. coord.; **Chuck Bresnahan**, def. coord.; **Sigismondo Cioffi**, asst. secondary; **Kevin Coyle**, secondary; **Jonathan Hayes**, tight ends; **Jay Hayes**, def. line; **Ricky Hunley**, linebackers; **Hue Jackson**, wide receivers; **Darrin Simmons**, special teams; **Bob Surace**, asst. off. line; **Ken Zampese**, quarterbacks

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | Johnson, Doug | QB | 6-2 | 220 | 10/27/1977 | 5 | Florida |
| 6 | Krenzel, Craig | QB | 6-4 | 228 | 07/01/1981 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 9 | Palmer, Carson | QB | 6-5 | 230 | 12/27/1979 | 2 | USC |
| 2 | Wright, Anthony | QB | 6-1 | 215 | 02/14/1976 | 4 | South Carolina |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 71 | Anderson, Willie | T | 6-5 | 340 | 07/11/1975 | 10 | Auburn |
| 79 | Andrews, Stacy | T | 6-7 | 350 | 06/02/1981 | 2 | Mississippi |
| 74 | Braham, Rich | C | 6-4 | 305 | 11/06/1970 | 11 | West Virginia |
| 53 | Ghiaciuc, Eric | C | 6-4 | 302 | 05/28/1981 | 1 | Central Michigan |
| 76 | Jones, Levi | T | 6-5 | 300 | 08/24/1979 | 4 | Arizona State |
| 75 | Kooistra, Scott | G | 6-6 | 320 | 10/14/1980 | 3 | N.C. State |
| 61 | Lougheed, Pete | T | 6-5 | 300 | 11/05/1979 | 0 | Purdue |
| 50 | Moore, Larry | G | 6-3 | 300 | 06/01/1975 | 8 | Brigham Young |
| 65 | Steinbach, Eric | G | 6-6 | 295 | 04/04/1980 | 3 | Iowa |
| 73 | Takavitz, Kyle | G | 6-4 | 311 | 11/01/1981 | 0 | Cincinnati |
| 67 | Vieira, Steven | G | 6-6 | 300 | 01/22/1982 | 0 | UCLA |
| 63 | Williams, Bobbie | G | 6-4 | 340 | 09/25/1976 | 5 | Arkansas |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 31 | Johnson, Jeremi | RB | 5-11 | 265 | 09/04/1980 | 3 | Western Kentucky |
| 32 | Johnson, Rudi | RB | 5-10 | 225 | 10/01/1979 | 5 | Auburn |
| 23 | Perry, Chris | RB | 6-0 | 224 | 12/27/1981 | 2 | Michigan |
| 33 | Watson, Kenny | RB | 5-11 | 220 | 03/13/1978 | 4 | Penn State |
| 35 | Wilson, Quincy | RB | 5-9 | 225 | 04/26/1981 | 0 | West Virginia |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 13 | Broussard, Jamall | WR | 5-9 | 172 | 08/19/1981 | 1 | San Jose State |
| 83 | Chatman, Antonio | WR | 5-9 | 183 | 02/12/1979 | 3 | Cincinnati |
| 80 | Ghent, Ronnie | TE | 6-2 | 253 | 01/05/1980 | 0 | Louisville |
| 15 | Henry, Chris | WR | 6-4 | 200 | 05/17/1983 | 1 | West Virginia |
| 84 | Houshmandzadeh, T.J. | WR | 6-1 | 197 | 09/26/1977 | 5 | Oregon State |
| 85 | Johnson, Chad | WR | 6-1 | 192 | 01/09/1978 | 5 | Oregon State |
| 82 | Kelly, Reggie | TE | 6-4 | 255 | 02/22/1977 | 7 | Mississippi State |
| 88 | Perry, Tab | WR | 6-3 | 215 | 01/20/1982 | 1 | UCLA |
| 18 | Sam, P.K. | WR | 6-3 | 210 | 02/26/1983 | 1 | Florida State |
| 47 | Sanders, Darnell | TE | 6-6 | 270 | 03/16/1979 | 3 | Ohio State |
| 48 | St. Louis, Brad | TE | 6-3 | 243 | 08/19/1976 | 6 | Missouri State |
| 86 | Stewart, Tony | TE | 6-5 | 260 | 08/09/1979 | 5 | Penn State |
| 87 | Washington, Kelley | WR | 6-3 | 216 | 08/21/1979 | 3 | Tennessee |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 95 | Adams, Sam | DT | 6-4 | 335 | 06/13/1973 | 12 | Texas A&M |
| 96 | Askew, Matthias | DT | 6-5 | 302 | 07/01/1982 | 2 | Michigan State |
| 68 | Fanene, Jonathan | DE | 6-4 | 291 | 03/19/1982 | 1 | Utah |
| 91 | Geathers, Robert | DE | 6-2 | 280 | 08/11/1983 | 2 | Georgia |
| 98 | Robinson, Bryan | DT | 6-4 | 304 | 06/22/1974 | 9 | Fresno State |
| 90 | Smith, Justin | DE | 6-4 | 275 | 09/30/1979 | 5 | Missouri |
| 66 | Smith, Shaun | DT | 6-2 | 320 | 08/19/1981 | 3 | South Carolina |
| 97 | Thornton, John | DT | 6-3 | 297 | 10/02/1976 | 7 | West Virginia |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 21 | Bauman, Rashad | CB | 5-8 | 184 | 05/07/1979 | 4 | Oregon |
| 41 | Body, Patrick | S | 6-2 | 201 | 01/17/1982 | 1 | Toledo |
| 27 | Brooks, Greg | CB | 5-11 | 177 | 12/16/1980 | 1 | Southern Miss |
| 26 | Bua, Tony | S | 5-11 | 218 | 02/11/1980 | 1 | Arkansas |
| 28 | Jackson, Dexter | S | 6-1 | 203 | 07/28/1977 | 7 | Florida State |
| 20 | James, Tory | CB | 6-2 | 192 | 05/18/1973 | 9 | LSU |
| 44 | Jones, Herana-Daze | S | 5-11 | 205 | 04/15/1982 | 0 | Indiana |
| 34 | Kaesviharn, Kevin | S | 6-1 | 196 | 08/29/1976 | 5 | Augustana (SD) |
| 42 | Mitchell, Anthony | S | 6-1 | 215 | 12/13/1974 | 6 | Tuskegee |
| 24 | O'Neal, Deltha | CB | 5-11 | 194 | 01/30/1977 | 6 | California |
| 25 | Ratliff, Keiwan | CB | 5-11 | 185 | 04/19/1981 | 2 | Florida |
| 40 | Williams, Madieu | S | 6-1 | 195 | 10/18/1981 | 2 | Maryland |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 59 | Johnson, Landon | LB | 6-2 | 227 | 03/13/1981 | 2 | Purdue |
| 58 | Miller, Caleb | LB | 6-3 | 225 | 09/03/1980 | 2 | Arkansas |
| 57 | Navies, Hannibal | LB | 6-3 | 245 | 07/19/1977 | 7 | Colorado |
| 99 | Pollack, David | LB | 6-2 | 255 | 06/19/1982 | 1 | Georgia |
| 56 | Simmons, Brian | LB | 6-3 | 244 | 06/21/1975 | 8 | North Carolina |
| 51 | Thurman, Odell | LB | 6-0 | 235 | 07/09/1983 | 1 | Georgia |
| 55 | Wilkins, Marcus | LB | 6-2 | 231 | 01/02/1980 | 4 | Texas |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 17 | Graham, Shayne | K | 6-0 | 197 | 12/09/1977 | 5 | Virginia Tech |
| 19 | Larson, Kyle | P | 6-1 | 204 | 09/02/1980 | 2 | Nebraska |

2005 RECORD: 6-10 | www.clevelandbrowns.com

# CLEVELAND BROWNS

AFC NORTH #3

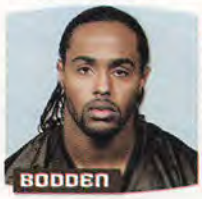
CLEVELAND BROWNS STADIUM
CAPACITY: 73,200 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 888-891-1999

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 2 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 3 |
| RECEIVERS | 4 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| LINEBACKERS | 3 |
| SECONDARY | 3 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 4 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Charlie Frye | LE | Orpheus Roye | P | Dave Zastudil |
| FB | Terrelle Smith | NT | Ted Washington | PR | Dennis Northcutt |
| RB | Reuben Droughns | RE | Alvin McKinley | H | Phil Dawson |
| LT | Kevin Shaffer | OLB | Willie McGinest | KR | Josh Cribbs |
| LG | Joe Andruzzi | ILB | Andra Davis | | |
| C | LeCharles Bentley | ILB | D'Qwell Jackson | | |
| RG | Cosey Coleman | OLB | Kamerion Wimbley | | |
| RT | Ryan Tucker | LCB | Leigh Bodden | | |
| TE | Kellen Winslow Jr. | RCB | Gary Baxter | | |
| WR | Braylon Edwards | SS | Brodney Pool | | |
| WR | Joe Jurevicius | FS | Brian Russell | | |




### ON THE RISE

**LEIGH BODDEN**
cornerback
The fourth-year player has emerged as the Browns' best defensive back.

### FADING FAST

**TED WASHINGTON**
nose tackle
Being realistic, the Browns are hoping to get one solid year out of the 38-year-old Washington.

# Brown-nosers

Cleveland's trying to appeal to the home folks by catering to players with local ties, including QB Charlie Frye, who's most crucial to the team's success this year.

No team in the NFL had a more productive offseason than the Cleveland Browns. Under General Manager Phil Savage and Coach Romeo Crennel, the Browns have found long-term direction and stability for the first time since they came back as an expansion franchise in 1999.

It was the first offseason since the team's return that the Browns did not change the head coach or one of the coordinators or a high-ranking executive. Where there was constant chaos under Crennel's predecessor, Butch Davis, who amassed a great deal of player-personnel power, there is now some sense of stability.

As a result, the Browns, who overachieved in Crennel's first season by winning six games with a talent-depleted roster, are poised for some short-term success. They have the look of one of the league's most improved teams heading into the 2006 season.

The expectation in Year Eight of the "new" Browns is playoff contender. It's a tall order for a franchise that is 15-33 since losing a wild-card game at Pittsburgh in the 2002 postseason.

The Browns have acquired players through free agency and the draft that better fit Crennel's four-linebacker scheme. The team is also counting on the return from injuries of former first-round picks Kellen Winslow Jr. at tight end and Braylon Edwards at wide receiver to add spark to the league's 26th-ranked offense. Winslow missed all of 2005 following a motorcycle accident. He had just five catches for 50 yards in an injury-shortened rookie season in 2004.

But most of the pressure in Cleveland will be on second-year quarterback Charlie Frye, who arguably outplayed veteran Trent Dilfer as a rookie. Immediately after the draft, the Browns all but made their choice official, trading Dilfer to the 49ers for quarterback Ken Dorsey and a seventh-round 2007 draft choice.

"I think this certainly thrusts Charlie a step up the ladder," Savage told reporters before the start of the first minicamp practice in May. "Charlie is our guy, unless Dorsey comes in here and just wows us. Charlie deserves it. He's worked extremely hard this spring. I think the players have gravitated to him being the leader of the team on offense."

Frye started five games last season, with a record of 2-3. He played in a total of seven games, completing 59.8 percent of his passes for four touchdowns, six intercep-



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## THE BOOK ON ... KELLEN WINSLOW JR.

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"When he was coming out of college, we looked at him closely. After the Browns drafted him, you could see he was already as good as the top tight ends in the league. Where he is after his setbacks remains to be seen. ...

"He reminds me of [Baltimore's] Todd Heap and [Pittsburgh's] Heath Miller in the same division—excellent pass receivers who can do a lot of different things. ...

"He seems to have learned from his mistakes and appears to be ready to commit himself to football."

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; JAMES D. SMITH / ICON SMI

**FACT**

The Browns have not sent any players to the Pro Bowl over the last four seasons. Every other NFL team has produced at least four Pro Bowlers during that span.

**STAT**

Reuben Droughns gained 1,601 yards from scrimmage in 2005, but scored only two touchdowns, the fewest in NFL history for a player gaining at least 1,600 yards.

**LOOK IT UP**

Cleveland has won its last four regular-season finales, the longest active streak of any NFL club.

## 5-YEAR WINS

## BROWNS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **PAUL BROWN** (13 YEARS)
   **Record with Browns:** 115-49-5
2. **BLANTON COLLIER** (8 YEARS)
   **Record with Browns:** 79-39-2
3. **MARTY SCHOTTENHEIMER** (5 YEARS)
   **Record with Browns:** 46-31

## THE COUNT

**11.8**
Average points allowed by the Browns in their six victories last season.

**16**
Career postseason sacks for Willie McGinest, the most in NFL history.

**28.2**
Percentage of red-zone drives in which Cleveland scored TDs last season, the lowest in the NFL.

tions and 1,002 yards. Frye and Edwards, both rookies, showed a promising chemistry in a 20-14 loss to Jacksonville on Dec. 4. Edwards, who injured his knee in the fourth quarter against the Jaguars, had five catches for 86 yards and two touchdowns, including a 34-yard score.

Crennel had been lukewarm about Frye until the Dilfer trade.

"I think he was able to do some things in the game," Crennel says of Frye's performance as a rookie. "When the ball was snapped, he was able to make some plays. I think the excitement could be justified if he had won every game. That would be really exciting."

Frye, an Ohio native who played college ball at nearby Akron, is part of an increased local flavor for the Browns. Despite drawing well at Cleveland Browns Stadium, there has been a bit of a disconnect between the club and the city since the franchise's expansion return.

In the offseason, Savage successfully achieved his goal by acquiring quality players with Cleveland roots. The idea is to reconnect Cleveland fans with the expansion Browns. Savage got his wish by signing free agents in center LeCharles Bentley, wide receiver Joe Jurevicius and punter Dave Zastudil—all of whom are either from Cleveland or its surrounding areas. Savage later added another local player, backup offensive lineman Bob Hallen.

"I think it's important, but if we think some player from Wisconsin can help us, we'd be interested in him, too," Savage says of the local connections. "I think it's important for us to have an identity and guys from here can help bring that back. But if we don't go out there and win, it's not going to matter."

In addition to Frye, Savage drafted former Kent State quarterback Josh Cribbs last year, then moved him to wide receiver

## NFL DRAFT 2006 — DRAFT REPORT

The Browns have needed help at linebacker for years and the position was addressed early and often in this draft. **Kamerion Wimbley** excels as an outside pass rusher, but his productivity numbers at Florida State are not those of a mid-first-round selection. This was a selection based on potential. Wimbley is not a sure thing and could be the biggest boom-or-bust pick of Round One. **D'Qwell Jackson** was the top inside linebacker in the draft. **Leon Williams** impresses as an athlete, but did nothing to excite on game days at the college level. **Travis Wilson** has size and speed, but struggled with injuries and play from the quarterback position as a senior. **Isaac Sowells** is an underrated Big Ten lineman who played left tackle at Indiana. **Jerome Harrison** is coming off an outstanding senior season and will likely bump Lee Suggs or William Green from the final roster. **DeMario Minter** is an experienced SEC corner who will improve the secondary depth in Cleveland. Versatile **Lawrence Vickers** should stick as the backup fullback. **Babatunde Oshinowo** excels as an inside run-stopper and will be groomed to replace Ted Washington. **Justin Hamilton** will likely spend the year on the practice squad.

GRADE: **C**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 13 | Wimbley, Kamerion | DE | 6-3 | 241 | Florida State |
| 2 | 2 | Jackson, D'Qwell | LB | 6-0 | 229 | Maryland |
| 3 | 14 | Wilson, Travis | WR | 6-2 | 213 | Oklahoma |
| 4 | 13 | Williams, Leon | LB | 6-3 | 236 | Miami (FL) |
| 4 | 15 | Sowells, Isaac | G | 6-3 | 323 | Indiana |
| 5 | 12 | Harrison, Jerome | RB | 5-9 | 202 | Washington State |
| 5 | 19 | Minter, DeMario | CB | 5-11 | 191 | Georgia |
| 6 | 11 | Vickers, Lawrence | RB | 6-0 | 246 | Colorado |
| 6 | 12 | Oshinowo, Babatunde | DT | 6-1 | 305 | Stanford |
| 7 | 14 | Hamilton, Justin | S | 6-3 | 230 | Virginia Tech |

## 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 1 vs. New Orleans | SEPT. 10 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 2 @ Cincinnati | SEPT. 17 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 3 vs. Baltimore | SEPT. 24 | 4:05 SCORE |
| WEEK 4 @ Oakland | OCT. 1 | 4:15 SCORE |
| WEEK 5 @ Carolina | OCT. 8 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 6 *OPEN DATE* | | |
| WEEK 7 vs. Denver | OCT. 22 | 4:05 SCORE |
| WEEK 8 vs. New York Jets | OCT. 29 | 4:15 SCORE |
| WEEK 9 @ San Diego | NOV. 5 | 4:15 SCORE |
| WEEK 10 @ Atlanta | NOV. 12 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 11 vs. Pittsburgh | NOV. 19 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 12 vs. Cincinnati | NOV. 26 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 13 vs. Kansas City | DEC. 3 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 14 @ Pittsburgh | DEC. 7 | 8:00 |

★ MUST-SEE GAME ★

*Never mind the "Battle of Ohio" series with the Bengals. The Steelers remain the Browns' most hated and heated rival. This late-season test should show how much ground the improving Browns have gained on the defending Super Bowl champions.*

SCORE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 15 @ Baltimore | DEC. 17 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 16 vs. Tampa Bay | DEC. 24 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 17 @ Houston | DEC. 31 | 1:00 SCORE |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | L | 13-27 | Cincinnati |
| 09/18 | W | 26-24 | at Green Bay |
| 09/25 | L | 6-13 | at Indianapolis |
| 10/09 | W | 20-10 | Chicago |
| 10/16 | L | 3-16 | at Baltimore |
| 10/23 | L | 10-13 | Detroit |
| 10/30 | L | 16-19 | at Houston |
| 11/06 | W | 20-14 | Tennessee |
| 11/13 | L | 21-34 | at Pittsburgh |
| 11/20 | W | 22-0 | Miami |
| 11/27 | L | 12-24 | at Minnesota |
| 12/04 | L | 14-20 | Jacksonville |
| 12/11 | L | 20-23 | at Cincinnati |
| 12/18 | W | 9-7 | at Oakland |
| 12/24 | L | 0-41 | Pittsburgh |
| 01/01 | W | 20-16 | Baltimore |

WON **6**, LOST **10**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Droughns | 309 | 1232 | 4.0 | 75t | 2 |
| Green | 20 | 78 | 3.9 | 17 | 0 |
| Frye | 18 | 60 | 3.3 | 16 | 1 |
| Dilfer | 20 | 46 | 2.3 | 12 | 0 |
| Northcutt | 2 | 33 | 16.5 | 31 | 0 |
| Wright | 11 | 27 | 2.5 | 6t | 1 |
| Suggs | 8 | 15 | 1.9 | 7 | 0 |
| Smith | 6 | 9 | 1.5 | 4 | 0 |
| Bryant | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| **Browns** | **395** | **1503** | **3.8** | **75t** | **4** |
| **Opponents** | **527** | **2202** | **4.2** | **80t** | **11** |

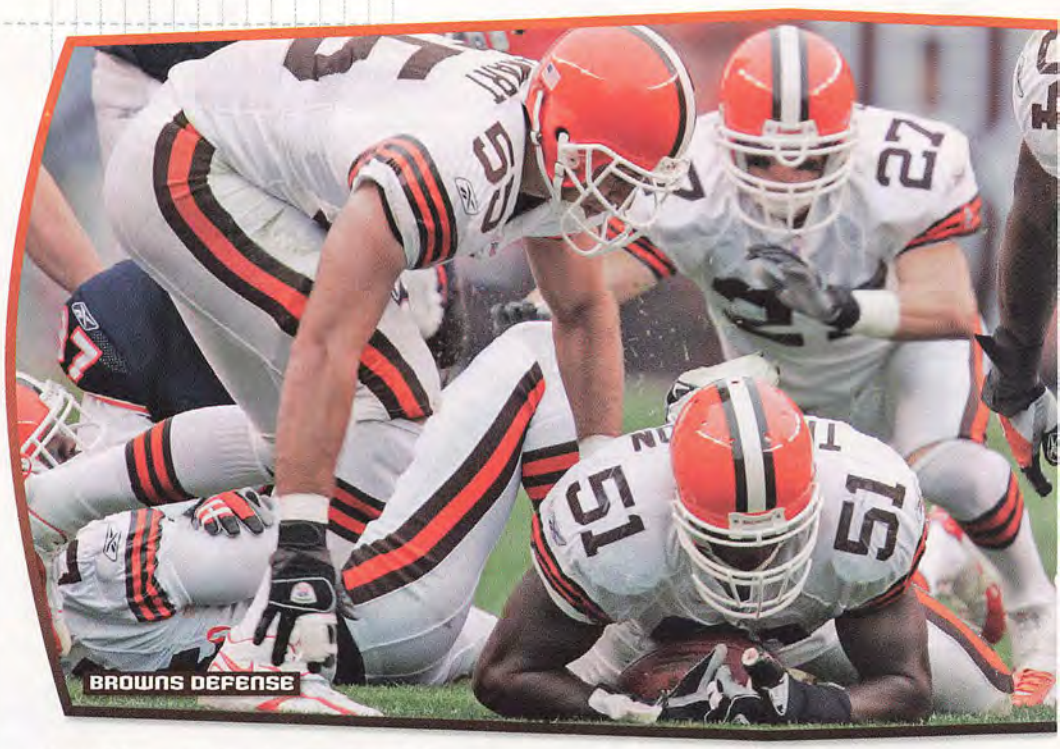
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bryant | 69 | 1009 | 14.6 | 54 | 4 |
| Heiden | 43 | 401 | 9.3 | 62t | 3 |
| Northcutt | 42 | 441 | 10.5 | 58t | 2 |
| Droughns | 39 | 369 | 9.5 | 51 | 0 |
| Edwards | 32 | 512 | 16.0 | 80t | 3 |
| Jackson | 24 | 287 | 12.0 | 68t | 1 |
| Shea | 18 | 153 | 8.5 | 27 | 1 |
| Smith | 12 | 58 | 4.8 | 9 | 1 |
| Suggs | 6 | 26 | 4.3 | 8 | 0 |
| Green | 5 | 30 | 6.0 | 14 | 0 |
| Wright | 3 | 15 | 5.0 | 15 | 0 |
| Irons | 2 | 16 | 8.0 | 14 | 0 |
| Cribbs | 1 | 7 | 7.0 | 7 | 0 |
| Faine | 1 | -1 | -1.0 | -1 | 0 |
| **Browns** | **297** | **3323** | **11.2** | **80t** | **15** |
| **Opponents** | **279** | **3009** | **10.8** | **51t** | **19** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dilfer | 333 | 199 | 2321 | 11 | 12 |
| Frye | 165 | 98 | 1002 | 4 | 6 |
| **Browns** | **497** | **297** | **3323** | **15** | **17** |
| **Opponents** | **471** | **279** | **3009** | **19** | **15** |

**SACKS**

McKinley 5, Thompson 5, Roye 3, Crocker 2, Davis 2, Eason 2, Lang 2, Kelley 1, Pool 1

**Browns 23, Opponents 46**


BROWNS DEFENSE

and special teams, where he contributed a 24.3-yard average on 45 kickoff returns, including a 90-yard touchdown.

Bentley and Jurevicius emphasized that they wanted to play for the hometown Browns.

"This is really a dream come true," says Bentley, who played at Saint Ignatius High and Ohio State. "This is the ultimate, to be a Cleveland Brown."

Jurevicius, a big possession receiver who had 55 catches and 10 TDs for Seattle last season, played at Mentor Lake Catholic High, northwest of Cleveland.

"This is where it all started for me," he says. "I had an opportunity to go other places, but it was first and foremost in my mind that I wanted to be a Cleveland Brown, to put on the orange helmet and play on the shores of Lake Erie and enjoy the feeling."

The Browns added a third new offensive starter in free agency with left tackle Kevin Shaffer, signed from Atlanta.

In Crennel's first season as coach (which followed his successful run as New England's defensive coordinator), the Browns switched to a 3-4 defense. They had only one player, linebacker Matt Stewart, who had extensive experience in that set.

Nose tackle Ted Washington and outside linebacker Willie McGinest, who was signed from the Patriots and reunites with Crennel in Cleveland, have played their best football in the 3-4.

With their first two picks in the draft, the Browns grabbed two more new starters who can make an immediate impact. First-round pick Kamerion Wimbley, who had 7.5 sacks as a defensive end at Florida State last season, is an excellent pass rusher with great speed off the edge. And second-round choice D'Qwell Jackson, who played in a 3-4 defense with Maryland, will play inside next to productive Andra Davis. Jackson had 137 tackles last season and should help a Browns defense that ranked 30th of 32 teams against the run in 2005. Savage traded center Jeff Faine to the Saints so the Browns could move up nine spots to get Jackson with the 34th overall pick.

"We identified some areas that we need to acquire players [in free agency]," Crennel says. "We were able to finish that with the draft. The big thing is we're just trying to be competitive.

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Browns)*

"I tell you, I am very impressed with what they've done in the offseason. They've added some excellent players in [center] LeCharles Bentley, [nose tackle] Ted Washington and [linebacker] Willie McGinest—those last two guys who have a lot of experience in the 3-4 defense. And it wasn't that they didn't have some solid personnel to begin with. The AFC North is going to be even more competitive, with Cleveland really improving their team. They have a young quarterback in Charlie Frye who played well as a rookie. They will move the ball and score some points if they get [wide receiver] Braylon Edwards and [tight end] Kellen Winslow Jr. back healthy for the season."

(L TO R): DAVID MAXWELL / US PRESSWIRE; COURTESY NFL

I think with some of the acquisitions we have a chance to be a little bit more competitive now."

Competition will be heavy in the AFC North, as the Browns face a division schedule that includes two games against Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh, two against playoff-qualifier Cincinnati and two against Baltimore, which always has a strong defense and could improve even more if it acquires quarterback Steve McNair from Tennessee.

Savage, a former Baltimore personnel executive like his former boss, Ravens General Manager Ozzie Newsome, is building a team that can win its division games by matching up well with rivals. An intense focus will be placed on Pittsburgh, which is 11-1 against the Browns since Oct. 22, 2000.

In evaluating players before and after the draft, Savage says he was looking for "Browns-specific" athletes.

"Are they fast, are they physical, do they have the right kind of demeanor?" Savage asks rhetorically. "What is this player's reaction going to be when he gets to Heinz Field? Is he going to shrink up, or is he going to stand tall and [go] toe-to-toe with Joey Porter or Ben Roethlisberger? We try to put more emphasis on Pittsburgh because they blew our doors off on Christmas Eve [41-0]. We don't want to see that happen again."

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Willie McGinest**, LB (NE)
- **LeCharles Bentley**, C (NO)
- **Joe Jurevicius**, WR (SEA)
- **Kevin Shaffer**, OT (ATL)
- **Dave Zastudil**, P (BAL)
- **Ted Washington**, DT (OAK)
- **Darnell Dinkins**, TE (BAL)
- **Bob Hallen**, C (SD)
- **Ken Dorsey**, QB (trade, SF)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **L.J. Shelton**, OT (MIA)
- **Antonio Bryant**, WR (SF)
- **Kenard Lang**, LB (DEN)
- **Chris Crocker**, DB (trade, ATL)
- **Ben Taylor**, LB (GB)
- **Amon Gordon**, DE (DEN)
- **Mike Pucillo**, OG (WAS)
- **Aaron Shea**, TE (SD)
- **Jeff Faine**, C (trade, NO)
- **Trent Dilfer**, QB (trade, SF)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 284.8 | 26 |
| Rushing | 93.9 | 25 |
| Passing | 190.8 | 23 |
| Scoring | 232 | 32 |
| Punt Returns | 10.1 | 4 |
| Kick Returns | 22.1 | 16t |
| Red Zone TD % | 28.2 | 32 |
| Total Defense | 316.8 | 16t |
| Against Rush | 137.6 | 30 |
| Against Pass | 179.2 | 4 |
| Points Allowed | 301 | 11 |
| Interceptions | 15 | 19t |
| Sacks | 23 | 32 |
| Turnover Diff. | -7 | 23t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 241 | 76 | 149 | 16 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 39 | 136 | 11 | 20 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 15 | 2 | 1 |

## BROWNS ROSTER

**Romeo Crennel, head coach**; **Maurice Carthon**, off. coord.; **Todd Grantham**, def. coord.; **Jerry Rosburg**, special teams coord.; **Dave Atkins**, running backs; **Ben Coates**, tight ends; **Jeff Davidson**, off. line; **Mike Haluchak**, linebackers; **Randy Melvin**, def. line; **Terry Robiskie**, wide receivers; **Rip Scherer**, quarterbacks; **Bob Trott**, def. asst.; **Mel Tucker**, def. backs; **Jeff Uhlenhake**, asst. off. line

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Anderson, Derek | QB | 6-6 | 245 | 06/15/1983 | 0 | Oregon State |
| 9 | Frye, Charlie | QB | 6-4 | 217 | 08/28/1981 | 1 | Akron |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 63 | Andruzzi, Joe | G | 6-3 | 315 | 08/23/1975 | 8 | Southern Conn. St. |
| 00 | Bentley, LeCharles | C | 6-2 | 313 | 11/07/1979 | 4 | Ohio State |
| 65 | Chambers, Kirk | G | 6-7 | 314 | 03/19/1979 | 2 | Stanford |
| 60 | Coleman, Cosey | G | 6-4 | 310 | 10/27/1978 | 6 | Tennessee |
| 74 | Dorsey, Nat | T | 6-7 | 322 | 09/09/1983 | 2 | Georgia Tech |
| 71 | Dunn, Jonathan | T | 6-7 | 328 | 12/12/1981 | 0 | Virginia Tech |
| 62 | Hallen, Bob | C | 6-3 | 295 | 03/09/1975 | 8 | Kent State |
| 73 | Herrion, Atlas | G | 6-4 | 313 | 12/03/1980 | 0 | Alabama |
| 79 | McMahon, Pete | T | 6-8 | 329 | 10/15/1981 | 0 | Iowa |
| 77 | Shaffer, Kevin | T | 6-5 | 290 | 03/02/1980 | 4 | Tulsa |
| 72 | Tucker, Ryan | T | 6-6 | 314 | 06/12/1975 | 9 | TCU |
| 68 | Yovanovits, Dave | G | 6-3 | 294 | 03/06/1981 | 2 | Temple |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 34 | Droughns, Reuben | RB | 5-11 | 215 | 08/21/1978 | 5 | Oregon |
| 31 | Green, William | RB | 6-0 | 214 | 12/17/1979 | 4 | Boston College |
| 36 | McIntyre, Corey | RB | 6-0 | 246 | 01/25/1979 | 1 | West Virginia |
| 42 | Smith, Terrelle | RB | 6-0 | 242 | 03/12/1978 | 6 | Arizona State |
| 44 | Suggs, Lee | RB | 6-0 | 206 | 08/11/1980 | 3 | Virginia Tech |
| 29 | Wright, Jason | RB | 5-10 | 210 | 07/12/1982 | 2 | Northwestern |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 16 | Cribbs, Joshua | WR | 6-1 | 192 | 06/09/1983 | 1 | Kent State |
| 87 | Dinkins, Darnell | TE | 6-2 | 255 | 01/20/1977 | 4 | Pittsburgh |
| 17 | Edwards, Braylon | WR | 6-3 | 211 | 02/21/1983 | 1 | Michigan |
| 82 | Heiden, Steve | TE | 6-5 | 267 | 09/21/1976 | 7 | South Dakota St. |
| 89 | Irons, Paul | TE | 6-2 | 242 | 12/23/1983 | 1 | Florida State |
| 88 | Jackson, Frisman | WR | 6-3 | 217 | 06/12/1979 | 4 | Western Illinois |
| 84 | Jurevicius, Joe | WR | 6-5 | 230 | 12/23/1974 | 8 | Penn State |
| 18 | Mosley, Kendrick | WR | 6-2 | 197 | 07/21/1981 | 0 | Western Michigan |
| 86 | Northcutt, Dennis | WR | 5-11 | 171 | 12/22/1977 | 6 | Arizona |
| 85 | Owens, John | TE | 6-3 | 270 | 01/10/1980 | 3 | Notre Dame |
| 11 | Rideau, Brandon | WR | 6-3 | 200 | 10/18/1982 | 0 | Kansas |
| 80 | Kellen Winslow | TE | 6-4 | 254 | 07/21/1983 | 3 | Miami (FL) |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 67 | Campbell, Darrell | DT | 6-4 | 290 | 07/06/1981 | 0 | Notre Dame |
| 98 | Eason, Nick | DT | 6-3 | 310 | 05/29/1980 | 2 | Clemson |
| 75 | Fraser, Simon | DE | 6-6 | 288 | 03/27/1983 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 91 | Hoffman, Andrew | DT | 6-4 | 296 | 02/15/1982 | 0 | Virginia |
| 78 | Kelley, Ethan | DT | 6-2 | 303 | 02/12/1980 | 2 | Baylor |
| 97 | McKinley, Alvin | DT | 6-3 | 294 | 06/09/1978 | 6 | Mississippi State |
| 69 | Parker, J'Vonne | DT | 6-4 | 310 | 06/07/1982 | 1 | Rutgers |
| 99 | Roye, Orpheus | DT | 6-4 | 305 | 01/21/1973 | 10 | Florida State |
| 92 | Washington, Ted | DT | 6-5 | 365 | 04/13/1968 | 15 | Louisville |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 24 | Baxter, Gary | CB | 6-2 | 210 | 11/24/1978 | 5 | Baylor |
| 28 | Bodden, Leigh | CB | 6-1 | 190 | 09/24/1981 | 3 | Duquesne |
| 20 | Hunter, Pete | CB | 6-2 | 212 | 05/25/1980 | 4 | Virginia Union |
| 26 | Jones, Sean | S | 6-1 | 212 | 03/02/1982 | 1 | Georgia |
| 37 | Mayer, Shawn | S | 6-0 | 202 | 03/04/1979 | 2 | Penn State |
| 33 | McCutcheon, Daylon | CB | 5-10 | 190 | 12/09/1976 | 7 | USC |
| 30 | Perkins, Antonio | CB | 5-11 | 188 | 01/09/1982 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| 21 | Pool, Brodney | S | 6-2 | 208 | 05/24/1984 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| 27 | Russell, Brian | S | 6-2 | 207 | 02/05/1978 | 4 | San Diego State |
| 25 | Thornton, James | CB | 6-0 | 193 | 08/09/1979 | 0 | Morris Brown |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 54 | Davis, Andra | LB | 6-1 | 250 | 12/23/1978 | 4 | Florida |
| 56 | Kurpeikis, Justin | LB | 6-3 | 254 | 07/17/1977 | 3 | Penn State |
| 55 | McGinest, Willie | LB | 6-5 | 270 | 12/11/1971 | 12 | USC |
| 90 | McMillan, David | LB | 6-3 | 262 | 09/20/1981 | 1 | Kansas |
| 57 | Smith, Clifton | LB | 6-3 | 267 | 07/21/1980 | 1 | Syracuse |
| 59 | Speegle, Nick | LB | 6-6 | 250 | 11/29/1981 | 1 | New Mexico |
| 52 | Stewart, Matt | LB | 6-3 | 236 | 08/31/1979 | 5 | Vanderbilt |
| 51 | Thompson, Chaun | LB | 6-2 | 242 | 05/22/1980 | 3 | West Texas A&M |
| 53 | Unck, Mason | LB | 6-3 | 238 | 09/07/1980 | 3 | Arizona State |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 2 | Chandler, Jeff | K | 6-2 | 215 | 06/18/1979 | 3 | Florida |
| 4 | Dawson, Phil | K | 5-11 | 200 | 01/23/1975 | 7 | Texas |
| 15 | Zastudil, Dave | P | 6-3 | 215 | 10/26/1978 | 4 | Ohio |

2005 RECORD: 6-10 www.baltimoreravens.com

# BALTIMORE

## RAVENS

AFC NORTH #4

M&T BANK STADIUM
CAPACITY: 70,107 | TURF: ARTIFICIAL | TICKETS: 410-261-RAVE

### POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 1 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 3 |
| RECEIVERS | 4 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 2 |
| LINEBACKERS | 4 |
| SECONDARY | 4 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 3 |

### PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Kyle Boller | LE | Trevor Pryce | P | Leo Araguz |
| FB | Alan Ricard | LT | Haloti Ngata | PR | B.J. Sams |
| RB | Jamal Lewis | RT | Justin Bannan | H | Matt Stover |
| LT | Jonathan Ogden | RE | Terrell Suggs | KR | B.J. Sams |
| LG | Edwin Mulitalo | LLB | Bart Scott | | |
| C | Mike Flynn | MLB | Ray Lewis | | |
| RG | Keydrick Vincent | RLB | Adalius Thomas | | |
| RT | Tony Pashos | LCB | Chris McAlister | | |
| TE | Todd Heap | RCB | Samari Rolle | | |
| WR | Derrick Mason | SS | Ed Reed | | |
| WR | Mark Clayton | FS | B.J. Ward | | |

### ON THE RISE

**MARK CLAYTON**
wide receiver
In the second half of his rookie season, he was truly a big-play receiver.

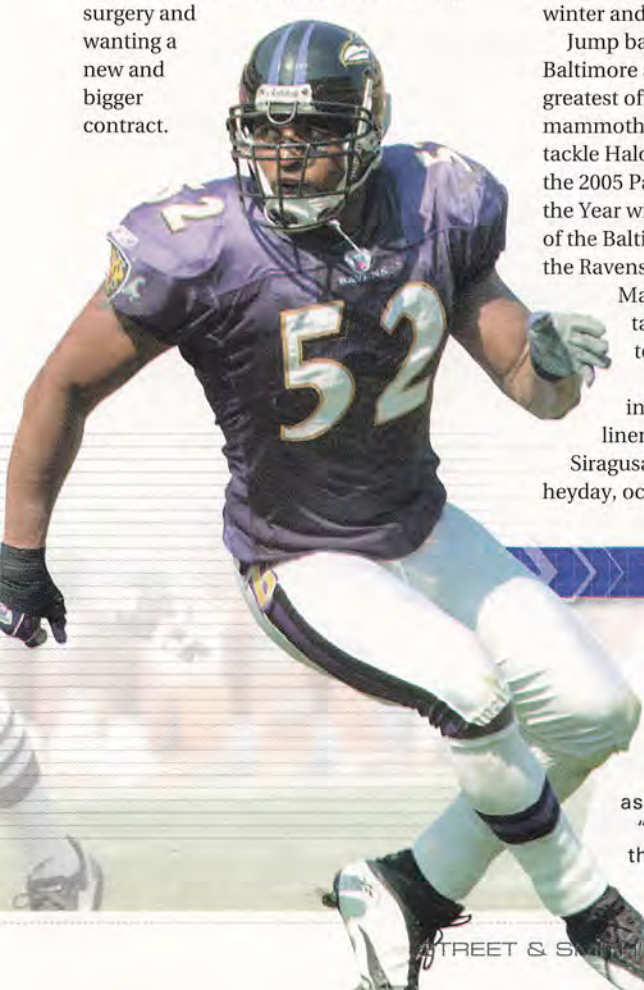
### FADING FAST

**CHRIS McALISTER**
cornerback
Has all the talent in the world, and admitted that last season was a big disappointment. He had just one interception.

# Something for Ray

## The drafting of Haloti Ngata provides Ravens All-Pro linebacker Ray Lewis with a gift that should keep on giving.

As the Baltimore Ravens headed into the post-draft portion of the offseason, they still had an unsettled quarterback situation, no starting free safety, an embattled head coach and an angry 31-year-old middle linebacker who is coming off hamstring surgery and wanting a new and bigger contract.



Chaos might best describe the Baltimore Ravens. But, hey, the club was also edgy and uncertain heading into their Super Bowl championship season of 2000 after watching Ray Lewis in an Atlanta courtroom on murder charges throughout the winter and spring.

Jump back to spring 2006, where Baltimore at least addressed one of its greatest offseason needs by drafting mammoth University of Oregon defensive tackle Haloti Ngata. At 6-4 and 340 pounds, the 2005 Pac-10 Co-Defensive Player of the Year will fill a big void in the middle of the Baltimore defense. Free agency saw the Ravens lose 350-pound nose tackle Maake Kemoeatu to Carolina and talented 3-4 end Anthony Weaver to Houston.

The defections left Lewis fuming about the lack of big defensive linemen like Sam Adams and Tony Siragusa, who, in the Ravens' defensive heyday, occupied offensive linemen and kept them from reaching the second level of the front seven and blocking Lewis.

Ravens officials insist that Ngata's selection, made at No. 12 after Baltimore traded up one spot with hated rival Cleveland, was not done to pacify Lewis. The pick of the big DT had more to do with AFC North rivals, all of which like to run the ball between the tackles. Veteran Kelly Gregg will also be around to add depth and experience behind Ngata.

"This is a big block of granite, a guy that's tough to move," Ravens Director of College Scouting Eric DeCosta says of Ngata. "I think he's going to pose nightmares for teams in our division trying to get him off the ball and trying to run the football."

Playing much of the season without Lewis and strong safety Ed Reed—consecutive NFL Defensive Players of the Year in 2003 and 2004, respectively—the 2005 Ravens slumped to a 6-10 record. Still, the defense was hardly the culprit. It finished fifth overall in total defense, eighth against the pass and ninth against the rush.

Missing, however, were the big plays like in 2004. That season, the Ravens ended plus-11 in turnover differential and had 34 takeaways. Last year, they dropped

### THE BOOK ON ... RAY LEWIS

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"We all know Ray Lewis is one of the NFL's most fierce, fierce competitors. ...

"My take on Ray Lewis is he will come back with renewed enthusiasm and energy and a commitment to re-establish himself as one of the best overall players in the NFL. ...

"When people talk about him losing a step or losing this or losing that, with Ray, I can only see it fueling his fire."

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TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

### FACT

The Ravens were 0-8 on the road last year, giving them their first winless season away from home since 1996.

### STAT

Wide receiver Derrick Mason (86) and tight end Todd Heap (75) combined for 161 catches during the 2005 season, the most by a Ravens duo in team history and the most in the NFL last year by a wide receiver-tight end tandem. They surpassed the previous team mark of 147 compiled by Qadry Ismail (74) and Shannon Sharpe (73) in 2001.

### LOOK IT UP

Baltimore kicker Matt Stover has the third-highest career field-goal percentage in NFL history at 83.2 percent (min. 100 field goals made).

### 5-YEAR WINS

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | PLAYOFFS |
| 2002 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | | | AFC TITLE |
| 2003 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| 2004 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | |
| 2005 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | | | SUPER BOWL CHAMPION |

### RAVENS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **BRIAN BILLICK** (7 YEARS)
   **Record with Ravens:** 67-52
2. **TED MARCHIBRODA** (3 YEARS)
   **Record with Ravens:** 16-31-1

### THE COUNT

**11.1**
Average yards per punt return by the Ravens in '05, the most in the NFL.

**59.6**
Pass-completion percentage by Ravens quarterbacks Kyle Boller and Anthony Wright last year, the highest mark in franchise history.

**284.7**
Yards allowed per game by the Baltimore defense last season, second best in the AFC.

to last in the AFC in turnover differential at minus-10 with only 26 takeaways.

In 2004, Reed returned nine interceptions for an NFL single-season record 358 yards and one touchdown. He started 10 games last season, recording just one interception while missing six games with an ankle injury.

The return of Reed and Lewis should add the big-play edge that has made the Ravens' defense one of the most respected in the NFL.

Still, team insiders have no real idea who will start at free safety, where the former starter, the solid Will Demps, left in free agency for the Giants. The Ravens received criticism for passing on a potential starting safety in the second round of the draft and instead taking Oklahoma center Chris Chester, a converted tight end. Behind Reed is backup B.J. Ward and rookie fifth-round pick Dawan Landry (Georgia Tech) as the Ravens' only safeties.

Though the defense really has not slid and appears poised to at least maintain its feared form, criticism of the Ravens' offense and Coach Brian Billick (which often come hand-in-hand) remains strong.

The offensive-minded Billick, whose 6-10 record in 2005 was his worst in seven years with the Ravens, was on the hot seat early in the season. The heat has increased, even though

SCOTT THORNTON / WIRE IMAGE.COM

## DRAFT REPORT

Ray Lewis campaigned prior to the draft for big defensive tackles to free him up to make plays and the Ravens did just that with the selection of **Haloti Ngata**. **Chris Chester** impressed in the athletic drills following the season, but started just one year at Oklahoma. **David Pittman** was the top I-AA corner and will provide much-needed depth at that position. **Demetrius Williams** was expected to be a sure second-round selection, but surprisingly lasted until the fourth. After averaging more than 16 yards per catch during his career at Oregon, he was considered one of the top second-day values. **P.J. Daniels** will struggle making the Ravens' roster, as Baltimore is already deep at halfback. **Dawan Landry** will compete with B.J. Ward to replace Will Demps. With free safety being one of the team's primary concerns entering the draft, it was a surprise the position was not addressed until the fifth round. **Quinn Sypniewski** will provide depth behind Todd Heap. **Sam Koch** will try to replace punter Dave Zastudil. **Derrick Martin** left school early, but waited until the sixth round to hear his name called. **Ryan LaCasse** is an OLB/DE 'tweener who will need to find his spot.

GRADE: **B**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 12 | Ngata, Haloti | DT | 6-4 | 340 | Oregon |
| 2 | 24 | Chester, Chris | C | 6-3 | 302 | Oklahoma |
| 3 | 23 | Pittman, David | CB | 5-11 | 182 | Northwestern St. |
| 4 | 14 | Williams, Demetrius | WR | 6-2 | 198 | Oregon |
| 4 | 35 | Daniels, P.J. | RB | 5-10 | 210 | Georgia Tech |
| 5 | 13 | Landry, Dawan | S | 6-1 | 219 | Georgia Tech |
| 5 | 33 | Sypniewski, Quinn | TE | 6-6 | 265 | Colorado |
| 6 | 34 | Koch, Sam | P | 5-11 | 225 | Nebraska |
| 6 | 39 | Martin, Derrick | DB | 5-10 | 201 | Wyoming |
| 7 | 11 | LaCasse, Ryan | LB | 6-2 | 257 | Syracuse |

### 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 1 @ Tampa Bay | SEPT. 10 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 2 vs. Oakland | SEPT. 17 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 3 @ Cleveland | SEPT. 24 | 4:05 SCORE |
| WEEK 4 vs. San Diego | OCT. 1 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 5 @ Denver | OCT. 9 | 8:30 SCORE |
| WEEK 6 vs. Carolina | OCT. 15 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 7 *OPEN DATE* | | |
| WEEK 8 @ New Orleans | OCT. 29 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 9 vs. Cincinnati | NOV. 5 | 1:00 SCORE |
| ★MUST-SEE GAME★ *The Ravens used to own the Bengals in Baltimore, but Cincinnati has won the last two.* | | |
| WEEK 10 @ Tennessee | NOV. 12 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 11 vs. Atlanta | NOV. 19 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 12 vs. Pittsburgh | NOV. 26 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 13 @ Cincinnati | NOV. 30 | 8:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 14 @ Kansas City | DEC. 10 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 15 vs. Cleveland | DEC. 17 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 16 @ Pittsburgh | DEC. 24 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 17 vs. Buffalo | DEC. 31 | 1:00 SCORE |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | L | 7-24 | Indianapolis |
| 09/18 | L | 10-25 | at Tennessee |
| 10/02 | W | 13-3 | New York Jets |
| 10/09 | L | 17-35 | at Detroit |
| 10/16 | W | 16-3 | Cleveland |
| 10/23 | L | 6-10 | at Chicago |
| 10/31 | L | 19-20 | at Pittsburgh |
| 11/06 | L | 9-21 | Cincinnati |
| 11/13 | L | 3-30 | at Jacksonville |
| 11/20 | W | 16-13 | Pittsburgh |
| 11/27 | L | 29-42 | at Cincinnati |
| 12/04 | W | 16-15 | Houston |
| 12/11 | L | 10-12 | at Denver |
| 12/19 | W | 48-3 | Green Bay |
| 12/25 | W | 30-23 | Minnesota |
| 01/01 | L | 16-20 | at Cleveland |

WON **6**, LOST **10**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J. Lewis | 269 | 906 | 3.4 | 25 | 3 |
| Taylor | 117 | 487 | 4.2 | 52 | 0 |
| Wright | 18 | 68 | 3.8 | 22 | 0 |
| Boller | 23 | 66 | 2.9 | 9 | 1 |
| Clayton | 8 | 33 | 4.1 | 11t | 1 |
| Stewart | 4 | 24 | 6.0 | 13 | 0 |
| White | 6 | 17 | 2.8 | 5 | 0 |
| J. Green | 5 | 4 | 0.8 | 4 | 0 |
| Sanders | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Zastudil | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Ravens** | **452** | **1605** | **3.6** | **52** | **5** |
| **Opponents** | **431** | **1591** | **3.7** | **77t** | **8** |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mason | 86 | 1073 | 12.5 | 39t | 3 |
| Heap | 75 | 855 | 11.4 | 48 | 7 |
| Clayton | 44 | 471 | 10.7 | 47t | 2 |
| Taylor | 41 | 292 | 7.1 | 20 | 1 |
| J. Lewis | 32 | 191 | 6.0 | 15t | 1 |
| Wilcox | 20 | 154 | 7.7 | 17t | 1 |
| Hymes | 11 | 132 | 12.0 | 21 | 2 |
| J. Green | 7 | 32 | 4.6 | 8 | 0 |
| Dinkins | 6 | 55 | 9.2 | 15 | 0 |
| Moore | 3 | 59 | 19.7 | 24 | 0 |
| Mughelli | 3 | 13 | 4.3 | 6 | 0 |
| Smith | 3 | 5 | 1.7 | 4 | 0 |
| P. Johnson | 2 | 31 | 15.5 | 19 | 0 |
| Ricard | 2 | 18 | 9.0 | 11 | 0 |
| **Ravens** | **335** | **3381** | **10.1** | **48** | **17** |
| **Opponents** | **296** | **3328** | **10.9** | **56** | **18** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boller | 293 | 171 | 1799 | 11 | 12 |
| Wright | 266 | 164 | 1582 | 6 | 9 |
| Clayton | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hymes | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Ravens** | **562** | **335** | **3381** | **17** | **21** |
| **Opponents** | **526** | **296** | **3228** | **18** | **12** |

**SACKS**

A. Thomas 9, Suggs 8, Polley 4, Scott 4, Boulware 2.5, R. Green 2, Gregg 2, Weaver 2, J. Johnson 1.5, Franklin 1, Kemoeatu 1, R. Lewis 1, C. Williams 1

**Ravens 41, Opponents 42**

Baltimore won three of its final five games and scored 94 points in its last three games.

Billick's performance was reviewed by owner Steve Bisciotti and General Manager Ozzie Newsome. As an organization, the Ravens examined how they could improve. Billick, who was endorsed by Bisciotti, says, "I have to get back to being a head coach."

At a postseason news conference following the review, Bisciotti said, "We felt that a new and improved Brian Billick was the best chance for the Baltimore Ravens."

If Billick is new and improved as a coach, his major challenge will be to close the gap between the team's productive defense and its underachieving offense. Baltimore ranked 24th in total offense in 2005.

The focus (not to mention a lot of pressure) rests on quarterback Kyle Boller to produce in his fourth season. A former first-round draft pick, Boller missed seven games last year because of a toe injury. His overall numbers were not that impressive. He was 171-for-293 passing (58.4 completion percentage) for 1,799 yards, 11 touchdowns and 12 interceptions. In three years, his completion percentage stands at 55.6 percent, with 31 touchdowns and 32 interceptions.

Though the Ravens did not draft a quarterback, they have agreed on contract terms with Titans quarterback Steve McNair. However, as of press time, McNair, who had received permission from Tennessee management to talk with the Ravens, remained property of the Titans. Tennessee was expected to release McNair or trade him in order to avoid paying a hefty roster bonus.

If McNair joins the Ravens, he would receive a signing bonus close to $11 million and an additional $1 million in base salary. He also would immediately be favored to replace Boller as the starter.

BRUCE SCHWARTZMAN

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Ravens)*

"I still think they've got to get their quarterback situation squared away. It has been their Achilles' heel. Their running game has slipped some, but it's always a concern [for defenses] with Jamal Lewis, and now Mike Anderson, giving them two big backs that can break long runs.

"If they can get their defensive playmakers back, along with the addition of [defensive end] Trevor Pryce, they should still be strong."

Still, prepared for the possibility that Boller might be his opening-day starting quarterback, Billick remains supportive.

"I have enough faith in Kyle Boller that it might [not be] an uphill battle for that young man," Billick said before the draft. "We're going to create some more options for the quarterback position, but my resolve and confidence in Kyle Boller have not changed."

The Ravens have surrounded Boller with solid skill players. But the once formidable offensive line might be slipping, as it begins to show collective signs of age.

Featured back Jamal Lewis remains in Baltimore after a difficult year in which his toughness was questioned. He rushed for 906 yards and a 3.4-yard average, the lowest of any of his five NFL seasons and one yard lower than the 4.3 average he took into 2005. Lewis had spent time in prison during the previous offseason due to a drug-related conviction.

To bolster their physical running game, the Ravens acquired another big back, signing Mike Anderson from Denver in free agency. Anderson rushed for 1,014 yards and scored 12 touchdowns in 15 starts for the Broncos in 2005. However, he will turn 33 shortly after the start of the regular season in September.

Boller also has the most talented array of receivers of any Baltimore quarterback since the old Browns franchise moved there before the 1996 season.

Derrick Mason, who signed as a free agent before the 2005 season from Tennessee, had 86 receptions last year, the most of any Ravens receiver in franchise history. Mason, who played with McNair in Tennessee, also had 1,073 yards and three touchdowns. Fellow starting wide receiver Mark Clayton broke the franchise's rookie records for receptions (44) and receiving yards (471). Clayton improved as the year went on and finished strong.

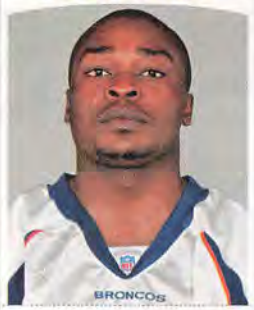
Then there's tight end Todd Heap, who had the best season of his career with 75 receptions, 855 yards and seven touchdowns.

There is no lack of quality targets for Boller; it's his accuracy and the breakdowns in protection that derailed the passing game.

Asked at the league meetings about Boller, Billick gave this telling answer: "I've seen enough to think Kyle is going to be pretty good. How good? Do you not look at other options?"

COURTESY NFL

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS



- **Mike Anderson**, RB (DEN)
- **Trevor Pryce**, DE (DEN)
- **Justin Bannan**, DT (BUF)
- **Corey Ivy**, CB (STL)
- **Gary Stills**, DE (KC)
- **Leo Araguz**, P (SEA)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Will Demps**, DB (NYG)
- **Chester Taylor**, RB (MIN)
- **Maake Kemoeatu**, DT (CAR)
- **Anthony Weaver**, DE (HOU)
- **Dave Zastudil**, P (CLE)
- **Darnell Dinkins**, TE (CLE)
- **Anthony Wright**, QB (CIN)
- **Chad Williams**, DB (SF)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 293.3 | 24 |
| Rushing | 100.3 | 21 |
| Passing | 193.0 | 22 |
| Scoring | 265 | 25 |
| Punt Returns | 11.1 | 1 |
| Kick Returns | 21.5 | 22 |
| Red Zone TD % | 38.1 | 28t |
| Total Defense | 284.7 | 5 |
| Against Rush | 99.4 | 9 |
| Against Pass | 185.2 | 8 |
| Points Allowed | 299 | 10 |
| Interceptions | 12 | 25 |
| Sacks | 41 | 8t |
| Turnover Diff. | -10 | 28t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 286 | 97 | 163 | 26 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 42 | 161 | 16 | 16 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 17 | 0 | 3 |

## RAVENS ROSTER

**Brian Billick, head coach**; **Jim Fassel**, off. coord.; **Rex Ryan**, def. coord.; **Frank Gansz, Jr.**, special teams coord.; **Clarence Brooks**, def. line; **Mark Carrier**, secondary; **John Fassel**, asst. special teams; **Jedd Fisch**, asst. wide receivers/quarterbacks; **Jeff FitzGerald**, linebackers; **Chris Foerster**, off. line/asst. head coach; **Wade Harman**, tight ends/asst. off. line; **Mike Johnson**, wide receivers; **Tony Nathan**, running backs; **Rick Neuheisel**, quarterbacks; **Mike Pettine**, outside linebackers; **Greg Roman**, asst. off. line; **Dennis Thurman**, secondary

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | Boller, Kyle | QB | 6-3 | 220 | 06/17/1981 | 3 | California |
| 12 | St. Pierre, Brian | QB | 6-0 | 220 | 11/28/1979 | 1 | Boston College |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 60 | Brown, Jason | G | 6-3 | 320 | 05/05/1983 | 1 | North Carolina |
| 63 | Droege, Rob | T | 6-6 | 302 | 02/15/1981 | 0 | Missouri |
| 62 | Flynn, Mike | C | 6-3 | 305 | 06/15/1974 | 8 | Maine |
| 70 | Katula, Matt | C | 6-6 | 272 | 08/22/1982 | 1 | Wisconsin |
| 74 | Kracalik, Mike | T | 6-8 | 337 | 09/09/1982 | 0 | San Diego State |
| 64 | Mulitalo, Edwin | G | 6-3 | 345 | 09/01/1974 | 7 | Arizona |
| 75 | Ogden, Jonathan | T | 6-9 | 345 | 07/31/1974 | 10 | UCLA |
| 79 | Pashos, Tony | T | 6-6 | 320 | 08/03/1980 | 2 | Illinois |
| 69 | Rimpf, Brian | G | 6-5 | 319 | 02/11/1981 | 2 | East Carolina |
| 63 | Szalay, Thatcher | G | 6-4 | 303 | 01/18/1979 | 2 | Montana |
| 78 | Terry, Adam | T | 6-8 | 330 | 09/01/1982 | 1 | Syracuse |
| 68 | Vincent, Keydrick | G | 6-5 | 325 | 04/13/1978 | 5 | Mississippi |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 38 | Anderson, Mike | RB | 6-0 | 230 | 09/21/1973 | 5 | Utah |
| 33 | Green, Justin | RB | 5-11 | 251 | 04/30/1982 | 1 | Montana |
| 31 | Lewis, Jamal | RB | 5-11 | 245 | 08/29/1979 | 5 | Tennessee |
| 34 | Mughelli, Ovie | RB | 6-1 | 255 | 06/10/1980 | 3 | Wake Forest |
| 39 | Ricard, Alan | RB | 5-11 | 237 | 01/17/1977 | 5 | Louisiana-Monroe |
| 36 | Sams, B.J. | RB | 5-10 | 185 | 10/29/1980 | 2 | McNeese State |
| 32 | Smith, Musa | RB | 6-0 | 232 | 05/31/1982 | 3 | Georgia |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 44 | Blizzard, Bobby | TE | 6-4 | 272 | 03/22/1980 | 0 | North Carolina |
| 14 | Bryant, Romby | WR | 6-1 | 181 | 12/21/1979 | 1 | Tulsa |
| 89 | Clayton, Mark | WR | 5-10 | 195 | 07/02/1982 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| 81 | Darling, Devard | WR | 6-1 | 215 | 04/16/1982 | 2 | Washington State |
| 86 | Heap, Todd | TE | 6-5 | 252 | 03/16/1980 | 5 | Arizona State |
| 85 | Mason, Derrick | WR | 5-10 | 192 | 01/17/1974 | 9 | Michigan State |
| 84 | Moore, Clarence | WR | 6-6 | 220 | 09/24/1982 | 2 | Northern Arizona |
| 83 | Wilcox, Daniel | TE | 6-1 | 245 | 03/23/1977 | 4 | Appalachian State |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 94 | Bannan, Justin | DT | 6-3 | 305 | 04/18/1979 | 4 | Colorado |
| 93 | Edwards, Dwan | DT | 6-3 | 315 | 05/16/1981 | 2 | Oregon State |
| 91 | Franklin, Aubrayo | DT | 6-1 | 320 | 08/27/1980 | 3 | Tennessee |
| 97 | Gregg, Kelly | DT | 6-0 | 310 | 11/01/1976 | 6 | Oklahoma |
| 95 | Johnson, Jarret | DE | 6-3 | 285 | 08/14/1981 | 3 | Alabama |
| 90 | Pryce, Trevor | DE | 6-5 | 286 | 08/03/1975 | 9 | Clemson |
| 56 | Stills, Gary | DE | 6-2 | 250 | 07/11/1974 | 7 | West Virginia |
| 55 | Suggs, Terrell | DE | 6-3 | 260 | 10/11/1982 | 3 | Arizona State |
| 72 | Thomas, Benard | DE | 6-4 | 263 | 04/10/1981 | 0 | Nebraska |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 45 | Butler, Robb | S | 6-0 | 217 | 09/14/1981 | 1 | Robert Morris |
| 35 | Ivy, Corey | CB | 5-9 | 188 | 03/29/1977 | 5 | Oklahoma |
| 21 | McAlister, Chris | CB | 6-1 | 206 | 06/14/1977 | 7 | Arizona |
| 42 | Norton, Zach | CB | 5-11 | 183 | 11/19/1981 | 1 | Cincinnati |
| 25 | Oglesby, Evan | CB | 5-10 | 185 | 12/18/1981 | 1 | North Alabama |
| 20 | Reed, Ed | S | 5-11 | 200 | 09/11/1978 | 4 | Miami (FL) |
| 22 | Rolle, Samari | CB | 6-0 | 175 | 08/10/1976 | 8 | Florida State |
| 46 | Ward, B.J. | S | 6-3 | 208 | 11/04/1981 | 1 | Florida State |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 54 | Green, Roderick | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 04/26/1982 | 2 | Cent. Missouri St. |
| 58 | Haley, Dennis | LB | 6-1 | 247 | 02/18/1982 | 1 | Virginia |
| 52 | Lewis, Ray | LB | 6-1 | 245 | 05/15/1975 | 10 | Miami (FL) |
| 57 | Scott, Bart | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 08/18/1980 | 4 | Southern Illinois |
| 51 | Smith, Mike | LB | 6-2 | 238 | 09/02/1981 | 1 | Texas Tech |
| 96 | Thomas, Adalius | LB | 6-2 | 270 | 08/18/1977 | 6 | Southern Miss |
| 59 | Woodfin, Zac | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 03/19/1983 | 1 | UAB |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 2 | Araguz, Leo | P | 5-11 | 190 | 01/18/1970 | 7 | Stephen F. Austin |
| 8 | Elling, Aaron | K | 6-2 | 201 | 05/31/1978 | 3 | Wyoming |
| 3 | Stover, Matt | K | 5-11 | 178 | 01/27/1968 | 15 | Louisiana Tech |

# AFC SOUTH

## Despite the loss of Edgerrin James, the Colts still have enough firepower to hold off the Jaguars

By **Mark Curnutte** *Cincinnati Enquirer*

Despite a couple of key personnel losses in Indianapolis, the Colts are again the team to beat in the AFC South.

Gone is tailback Edgerrin James, who accounted for 9,226 rushing yards in Indy and was an excellent receiver and pass blocker. The Super Bowl-favorite Colts—who went through the regular season with just two defeats—lost their first playoff game, at home, to the Steelers.

"I think we'll come back, hopefully, with a purpose and be kind of inspired by what Pittsburgh did," Indianapolis coach Tony Dungy says. "They lost [the year before] and had some issues they had to overcome and they were focused and very determined. That's what we've got to do."

Jacksonville was 12-4 and went to the playoffs last year for the first time since 1999, but wasn't nearly as good as the record might indicate. The Jaguars face a much tougher schedule this year, but again look to be the team in the best position to challenge the Colts' reign atop the division.

Houston fired defense-oriented Coach Dom Capers. In his place, the Texans hired offensive guru Gary Kubiak, who vowed to revive quarterback David Carr's career and one of the league's least productive attacks. The Texans, despite slumping badly in 2005, are better than their 2-14 record.

In Tennessee, Coach Jeff Fisher and General Manager Floyd Reese are on the hot seat after going 9-23 the past two seasons. Reese got his quarterback in No. 3 overall draft pick Vince Young, but Fisher was said to have wanted a reunion between Titans Offensive Coordinator Norm Chow and his former college quarterback, Matt Leinart.

**PREDICTED** ORDER OF FINISH:

In Indianapolis, all eyes will be on Joseph Addai, the Colts' first-round draft pick and James' heir apparent. Colts President Bill Polian likes Addai's versatility, especially his blocking. James excelled at picking up the blitz and protecting quarterback Peyton Manning, and Addai quickly recognizes the blitz. He will share time in his rookie season with veteran Dominic Rhodes.

The Colts also lost linebacker David Thornton in free agency, but Dungy keeps adding quality players through the draft. Second-round pick Tim Jennings will get a chance to start at corner, with Marlin Jackson moving to safety.

The key for the Colts is to overcome the sense that they are jinxed. They moved past the New England hex last year, but caught a hot Pittsburgh team in the divisional round.

The Jaguars are coming off a season in which they were one of just four NFL teams to win 12 or more games. Yet, they received little respect. The schedule was soft, and the 2006 slate is much more challenging.

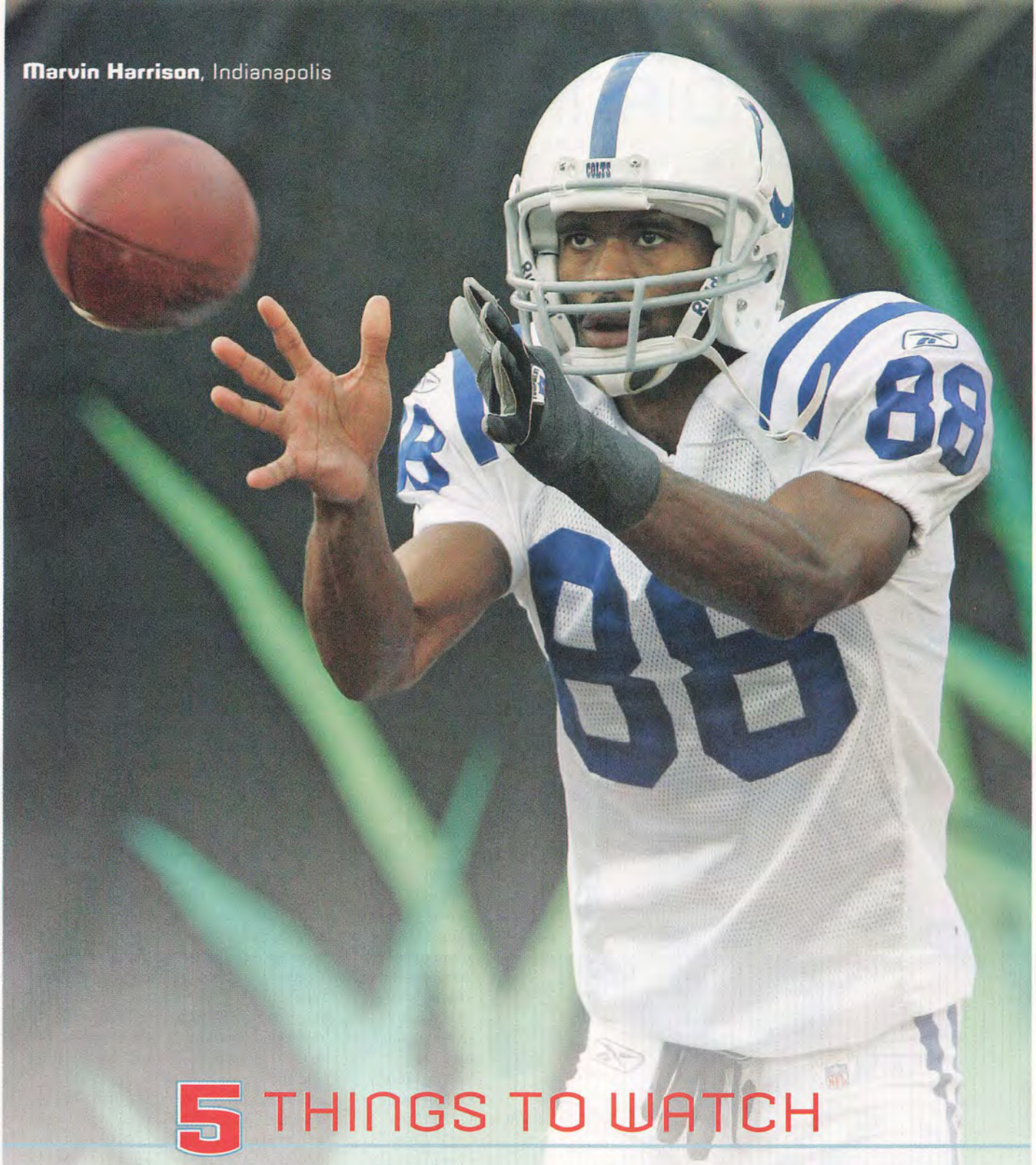
The Jaguars are trying to get their offense on par with their tough defense, which is anchored by one of the best front fours in the league. They picked up UCLA tight end Marcedes Lewis in the first round of the draft, the third consecutive year they have spent their first pick on a pass catcher. They're looking for more firepower out of quarterback Byron Leftwich, though the offense is based on a physical run game.

The Texans shocked some by passing on Heisman Trophy-winning tailback Reggie Bush with the first pick and going instead with N.C. State defensive end Mario Williams. He will be an instant starter in the new 4-3 set opposite free-agent pickup Anthony Weaver from Baltimore.

On offense, Houston hired former Packers Coach Mike Sherman as its offensive coordinator. And his prime responsibility will be to upgrade the play of an offensive line that has given up way too many sacks.

In Tennessee, Chow didn't get his former Southern Cal quarterback, but he did get one of his former running backs with the Trojans, LenDale White, in the second round.

The Titans are in the midst of a complete overhauling. At press time, they were poised to release or trade quarterback Steve McNair. The decision then will be how quickly to play Young ahead of longtime veteran backup Billy Volek.




MATTHEW EMMONS / US PRESSWIRE

# 5 THINGS TO WATCH

**1** The breakup. How will the Colts handle the free-agent loss of all-purpose running back Edgerrin James, thus breaking up the potent Triplet combo of James, Peyton Manning and Marvin Harrison?

**2** Jeff Fisher. Is this the season Fisher's coaching tenure—the second-longest active one in the NFL—comes to an end in Tennessee? Despite a busy offseason acquiring veteran free agents, the Titans don't figure to get much this season from first-round quarterback Vince Young.

**3** New Carr. Will new Coach Gary Kubiak be successful in improving the protection in front of quarterback David Carr and helping him revive his career?

**4** Repeat. Will Jacksonville be able to approach its 12-4 record and playoff berth of last season against a much tougher schedule?

**5** Window closing. How will the Colts rebound from another crushing playoff loss, this time at home? Are Indianapolis' chances at a Super Bowl beginning to diminish?

2005 RECORD: 14-2 | www.colts.com

# INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

AFC SOUTH #1

RCA DOME
CAPACITY: 55,531 | TURF: ARTIFICIAL | TICKETS: 317-297-7000

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 5 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 2 |
| RECEIVERS | 5 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| LINEBACKERS | 3 |
| SECONDARY | 4 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 4 |
| MANAGEMENT | 4 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Peyton Manning | LE | Raheem Brock | P | Hunter Smith |
| FB | James Mungro | LT | Corey Simon | PR | Jason David |
| RB | Dominic Rhodes | RT | Montae Reagor | K | Adam Vinatieri |
| LT | Tarik Glenn | RE | Dwight Freeney | KR | Dominic Rhodes |
| LG | Ryan Lilja | LLB | Gilbert Gardner | | |
| C | Jeff Saturday | MLB | Gary Brackett | | |
| RG | Jake Scott | RLB | Cato June | | |
| RT | Ryan Diem | LCB | Nick Harper | | |
| TE | Dallas Clark | RCB | Jason David | | |
| WR | Marvin Harrison | SS | Mike Doss | | |
| WR | Reggie Wayne | FS | Bob Sanders | | |

### ON THE RISE

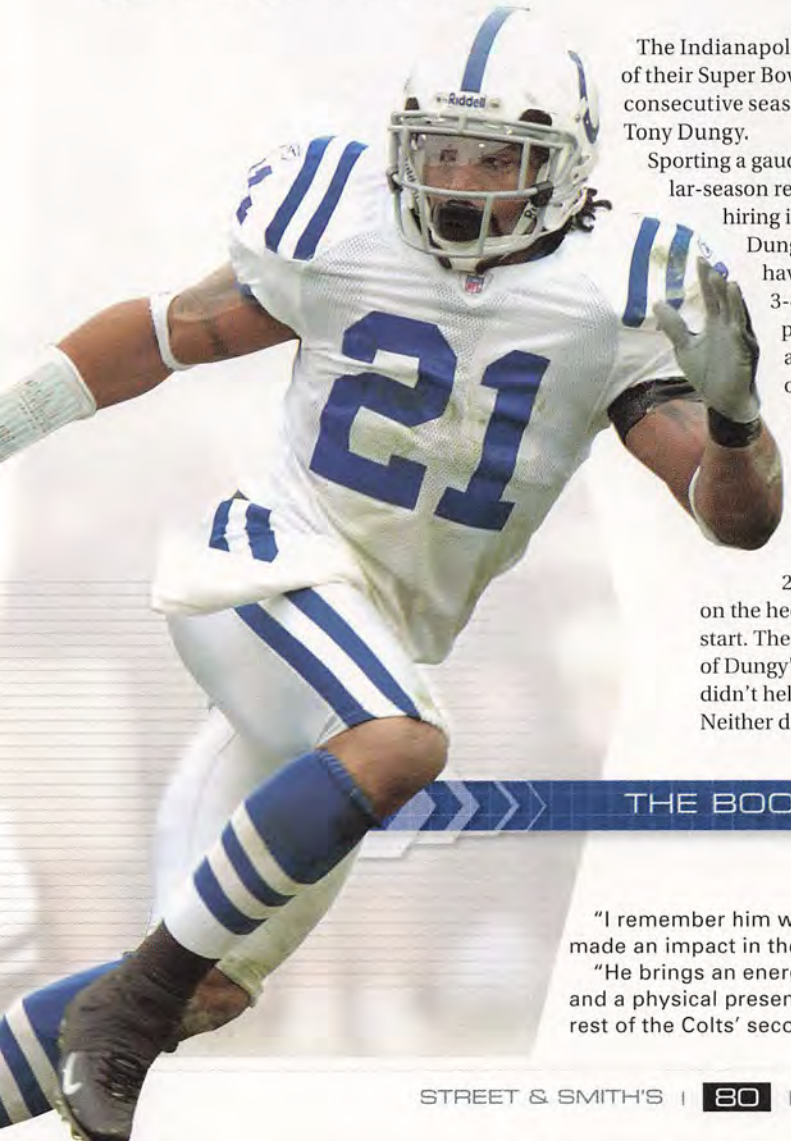
**CATO JUNE**
linebacker
He emerged as a big-play player in 2005 with five picks and two TDs.

### FADING FAST

**COREY SIMON**
defensive tackle
After signing a huge contract, the six-year veteran missed three games and recorded no sacks.

# Losing their 'Edge'

The Colts will try to rebound from their gut-wrenching playoff loss to Pittsburgh without Edgerrin James.



The Indianapolis Colts fell short of their Super Bowl goal for a third consecutive season under Coach Tony Dungy.

Sporting a gaudy 48-16 regular-season record since his hiring in Indianapolis, Dungy and his Colts have struggled to a 3-4 record in the postseason and advanced just once to the AFC Championship Game, where they lost to New England in 2004.

The Colts' 2005 fade came on the heels of a 13-0 start. The tragic suicide of Dungy's son in Florida didn't help the team. Neither did the pressure to rest starters down the stretch. Counting the 21-18 division-round playoff loss at the RCA Dome to the Steelers, the Colts lost three of their last four games, defeating only lowly Arizona, 17-13, in the season finale at home. The high-scoring offense failed to crack the 20-point barrier in its last four contests, including the playoff game.

So how do the Colts pick up and begin again? They lost perhaps the most valuable player in their offense, tailback Edgerrin James, who signed with the Cardinals in free agency. Their only significant offseason acquisition was former nemesis kicker Adam Vinatieri, who left the cold, swirling winds of New England's Gillette Stadium for the climate-controlled environs of the RCA Dome.

The team didn't predict big changes. In fact, at his season wrap-up press conference the day after the Pittsburgh loss, Dungy said, "I like our team the way it is. I liked our team when we were winning 13 in a row and I still liked our team [against the Steelers]. I wouldn't say in order to get to the next level we've got to do this, this and this."

Dungy will return for his fifth season with the Colts. His 2005 team was the No. 1 seed in the AFC and was well-positioned to play all of its potential postseason games indoors, including Super Bowl XL at Ford Field in Detroit.

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## THE BOOK ON ... BOB SANDERS

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"I remember him when he was at the Senior Bowl [2004]. He got hurt, but he made an impact in the one day he was there. ...

"He brings an energy, toughness and intimidation factor. He has great speed and a physical presence. He plays much bigger than he is [5-8, 206 pounds]. The rest of the Colts' secondary feeds off him."

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; TOMASSO DEROSA

### FACT

The Colts have produced more passing yards than their opponents for nine consecutive seasons, the longest active streak in the NFL.

### STAT

Adam Vinatieri is a perfect 11-for-11 in field goals and 22-for-22 on extra-point tries in his career kicking at the RCA Dome.

### LOOK IT UP

The Colts are just the second team in NFL history (1996-1998 49ers) to have three consecutive seasons with 12 or more wins and fail to reach the Super Bowl.

### 5-YEAR WINS

### COLTS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **WEEB EWBANK** (9 YEARS)
   **Record with Colts:** 61-52-1
2. **DON SHULA** (7 YEARS)
   **Record with Colts:** 73-26-4
3. **TONY DUNGY** (4 YEARS)
   **Record with Colts:** 51-20

### THE COUNT

**28-8**
Colts' record when Dwight Freeney records a sack.

**7**
Consecutive seasons with 80 or more receptions for Marvin Harrison, the longest active streak in the NFL and tied for second-longest all-time behind Jerry Rice.

**259**
Career completions of 25 yards or more for Peyton Manning since entering the league in 1998.

The Colts and their fans were crushed by another playoff letdown after the team's 14-2 finish and 13-0 start.

"We've got to use the disappointment to fuel our fire for next year," Dungy says. "We've got to look ahead and see what we can do a little bit better to get ourselves in a position again and then take advantage. You hear enough, 'What's wrong? What's wrong?' Really, most of the time there's not a whole lot wrong."

To prove Dungy's point, the Colts re-signed many of their own free agents. They brought in only one unrestricted free agent, Vinatieri.

But Indianapolis lost one major player in its high-scoring offense (James) and the success of two players—Dominic Rhodes and first-round pick Joseph Addai—will go a long way in determining the kind of year the Colts will have in trying to rebound from the most crushing in a series of playoff disappointments.

As they move forward, the Colts can't help but feel the loss of James, the franchise's all-time leading rusher and arguably the team's MVP the past few seasons. James rushed for 1,506 yards and 13 touchdowns and caught 44 passes for another 337 yards and one touchdown in 2005. He signed with Arizona as an unrestricted free agent, breaking up the Colts' offensive "Triplets" combo of James, wide receiver Marvin Harrison and quarterback Peyton Manning.

"It feels like college when you're going to lose the seniors," Manning said after the playoff loss, reflecting on the likelihood of playing without James. "I certainly like our team this year. We had good guys, guys you wanted to win for and win with."

Beside his impressive numbers, James was an outstanding blocker in the Colts'

## DRAFT REPORT

After losing Edgerrin James to the Cardinals in free agency, the Colts were expected to address their need for a new feature back in Round One. **Joseph Addai** is a complete back who runs, blocks and catches well, but was never the feature back at LSU. **Tim Jennings** is a scrappy corner, but he will need to overcome a lack of height. **Freddie Keiaho** stood out in replacing Kirk Morrison (Raiders) at San Diego State last season and fits well in Tony Dungy's scheme. **Michael Toudouze** and **Charlie Johnson** will likely need time to develop on the practice squad. **Antoine Bethea** is a highly productive small-college safety who could also be used at cornerback. **T.J. Rushing** excels returning kicks. Will Addai be able to effectively replace James? Will Indy regret passing on LenDale White?

GRADE: **C**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 30 | Addai, Joseph | RB | 5-11 | 215 | LSU |
| 2 | 30 | Jennings, Tim | CB | 5-8 | 186 | Georgia |
| 3 | 30 | Keiaho, Freddy | LB | 5-11 | 227 | San Diego State |
| 5 | 29 | Toudouze, Michael | G | 6-6 | 302 | TCU |
| 6 | 30 | Johnson, Charlie | T | 6-3 | 302 | Oklahoma State |
| 6 | 38 | Bethea, Antoine | CB | 5-11 | 203 | Howard |
| 7 | 30 | Rushing, T.J. | DB | 5-10 | 175 | Stanford |

### HE SAID IT:

**One team wins the Super Bowl, the other 31 end the season disappointed in some fashion. That's football.**

*—Coach Tony Dungy on the Colts missing the Super Bowl after being favored to win it*

## 2006 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** @ New York Giants
SEPT. 10 | 8:15
★ MUST-SEE GAME ★
*This game features a subplot of Colts quarterback Peyton Manning going against his younger brother, Eli, of the Giants. It will also be NBC's first Sunday night prime-time game.*
SCORE

**WEEK 2** vs. Houston
SEPT. 17 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 3** vs. Jacksonville
SEPT. 24 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 4** @ New York Jets
OCT. 1 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 5** vs. Tennessee
OCT. 8 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 6** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 7** vs. Washington
OCT. 22 | 4:15
SCORE

**WEEK 8** @ Denver
OCT. 29 | 4:15
SCORE

**WEEK 9** @ New England
NOV. 5 | 8:15
SCORE

**WEEK 10** vs. Buffalo
NOV. 12 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 11** @ Dallas
NOV. 19 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 12** vs. Philadelphia
NOV. 26 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 13** @ Tennessee
DEC. 3 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 14** @ Jacksonville
DEC. 10 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 15** vs. Cincinnati
DEC. 18 | 8:30
SCORE

**WEEK 16** @ Houston
DEC. 24 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 17** vs. Miami
DEC. 31 | 1:00
SCORE

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | W | 24-7 | at Baltimore |
| 09/18 | W | 10-3 | Jacksonville |
| 09/25 | W | 13-6 | Cleveland |
| 10/02 | W | 31-10 | at Tennessee |
| 10/09 | W | 28-3 | at San Francisco |
| 10/17 | W | 45-28 | St. Louis |
| 10/23 | W | 38-20 | at Houston |
| 11/07 | W | 40-21 | at New England |
| 11/13 | W | 31-17 | Houston |
| 11/20 | W | 45-37 | at Cincinnati |
| 11/28 | W | 26-7 | Pittsburgh |
| 12/04 | W | 35-3 | Tennessee |
| 12/11 | W | 26-18 | at Jacksonville |
| 12/18 | L | 17-26 | San Diego |
| 12/24 | L | 13-28 | at Seattle |
| 01/01 | W | 17-13 | Arizona |

WON **14**, LOST **2**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| James | 360 | 1506 | 4.2 | 33 | 13 |
| Rhodes | 40 | 118 | 3.0 | 24 | 4 |
| Manning | 33 | 45 | 1.4 | 12 | 0 |
| Carthon | 13 | 18 | 1.4 | 7 | 1 |
| Mungro | 7 | 15 | 2.1 | 7 | 0 |
| Sorgi | 12 | 1 | 0.1 | 6 | 0 |
| **Colts** | **465** | **1703** | **3.7** | **33** | **18** |
| **Opponents** | **398** | **1762** | **4.4** | **83t** | **9** |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wayne | 83 | 1055 | 12.7 | 66t | 5 |
| Harrison | 82 | 1146 | 14.0 | 80t | 12 |
| James | 44 | 337 | 7.7 | 20 | 1 |
| Stokley | 41 | 543 | 13.2 | 45 | 1 |
| Clark | 37 | 488 | 13.2 | 56 | 4 |
| Fletcher | 18 | 202 | 11.2 | 23 | 3 |
| Walters | 14 | 152 | 10.9 | 39 | 3 |
| Rhodes | 12 | 88 | 7.3 | 15 | 0 |
| Moorehead | 7 | 75 | 10.7 | 24 | 0 |
| Utecht | 3 | 59 | 19.7 | 26t | 2 |
| Mungro | 3 | 28 | 9.3 | 17 | 0 |
| Hartsock | 2 | 8 | 4.0 | 7 | 0 |
| Carthon | 1 | 10 | 10.0 | 10 | 0 |
| **Colts** | **347** | **4191** | **12.1** | **80t** | **31** |
| **Opponents** | **343** | **3469** | **10.1** | **68t** | **17** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manning | 453 | 305 | 3747 | 28 | 10 |
| Sorgi | 61 | 42 | 444 | 3 | 1 |
| Smith | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Colts** | **515** | **347** | **4191** | **31** | **11** |
| **Opponents** | **509** | **343** | **3469** | **17** | **18** |

**SACKS**

Mathis 11.5, Freeney 11, Brock 6.5, Reagor 5.5, Tripplett 4, Thomas 3, Thornton 2, Brackett 1, Gardner 1, Labinjo 0.5

**Colts 46, Opponents 20**

REGGIE WAYNE, WR

high-powered passing game. He excelled at picking up and keeping blitzing defenders away from Manning. To keep James even for one more season—he played in 2005 for the franchise-tag designation of $9.1 million—would have cost Indy about $11 million this season.

Without James, the Colts plan to use a platoon this season. Longtime backup Rhodes (118 yards and four rushing touchdowns in 2005) will start, and the Colts will bring former LSU star Addai along slowly.

Indianapolis has used a one-back system since 1994, when it selected Marshall Faulk with the second overall pick in the draft. Then James took over. When they were healthy, they were the sole option in the run game.

The Colts, picking 30th in the first round, even considered trading up to get Addai, who averaged 4.9 yards a carry and finished with 911 yards on the ground last season at LSU. He scored 10 touchdowns and is a skilled receiver and hard-working, determined blocker.

"He does everything well," Indianapolis President Bill Polian says. "He has been a wide receiver. He knows how to run routes. He blocks very well."

Addai's approach is more modest.

"Just to really go out there and get on the field and compete with everyone else," he says when asked what he expects from himself as a rookie. "Some players come in and get drafted early but don't really contribute to the team. I feel like I can contribute and help out."

He better.

The Colts did make one major change. They let kicker (and playoff goat) Mike Vanderjagt leave; he signed with Dallas.

In his place, the Colts inked Vinatieri. The former Super Bowl hero figures to flourish kicking indoors after battling the elements in New England.

But several key players re-signed, starting with wide receiver Reggie Wayne, the team's leading pass catcher with 83 receptions in 2005. Wayne also had 1,055 receiving yards.

Besides Wayne, the Colts re-signed defensive end Raheem Brock, linebackers Gary Brackett, Cato June and Rob Morris, fullback James Mungro, offensive tackle Makoa Freitas, offensive lineman Ryan Lilja, defensive end Robert Mathis, wide receiver Aaron Moorehead, safety Gerome Sapp

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Colts)*

"They are one of the most consistent teams in the league, year in and year out. [Peyton] Manning didn't have the numbers he has had, but they are still one of the most difficult teams to defend. ...

"They lost Edgerrin James, and we'll see how much that will affect them. It will affect them in the run game, but it might be more of a loss in the pass game. He was a good receiver, but he was an excellent pass protector."

(L TO R): BRIAN SPURLOCK / US PRESSWIRE; COURTESY NFL (2)

and tight end Ben Utecht. Wayne, Brock, Brackett, June, Mungro and Lilja are starters.

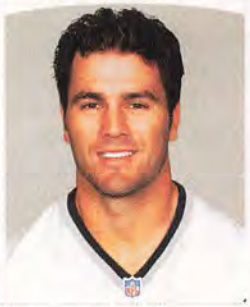
June blossomed into an Pro Bowl starter. Brackett led the defense with 131 total tackles. Brock had 6.5 sacks and a team-high 26 quarterback pressures. Mathis, a pass-rush specialist, led an increasingly fast and quick, albeit undersized, defensive unit with 11.5 sacks.

In addition to James and Vanderjagt, the Colts let linebacker David Thornton, defensive tackle Larry Tripplett and wide receiver Troy Walters go.

"You always find the next person," Dungy says. "I just think back to when Marshall [Faulk] left. I know it was the same thing in the city: 'How are we going to replace this guy? He does everything, and how are you ever going to get back what Marshall can do?' We found 'Edge' [James] and we'll find someone else.

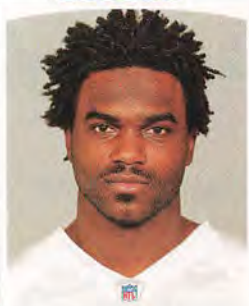
"We wanted [James] to come back. But that's just the way kind of the system is supposed to work. We had three guys sign within 24 hours—[James] and David Thornton and Larry Tripplett, and I think they got about $26 million in bonus money combined. You look at that with the guys we did sign, and there's only so much money we have."

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS



- **Adam Vinatieri**, K (NE)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES



- **Edgerrin James**, RB (ARI)
- **Larry Tripplett**, DT (BUF)
- **David Thornton**, LB (TEN)
- **Mike Vanderjagt**, K (DAL)
- **Troy Walters**, WR (ARI)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 362.4 | 3 |
| Rushing | 106.4 | 16 |
| Passing | 256.0 | 3 |
| Scoring | 439 | 2 |
| Punt Returns | 7.6 | 19t |
| Kick Returns | 19.9 | 28t |
| Red Zone TD % | 60.7 | 5t |
| Total Defense | 307.1 | 11 |
| Against Rush | 110.1 | 16 |
| Against Pass | 196.9 | 15 |
| Points Allowed | 247 | 2 |
| Interceptions | 18 | 9 |
| Sacks | 46 | 5t |
| Turnover Diff. | +12 | 4 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 363 | 116 | 217 | 30 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 61 | 307 | 37 | 16 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 18 | 31 | 0 | 4 |

## COLTS ROSTER

**Tony Dungy, head coach**; **Jim Caldwell**, asst. head coach/quarterbacks; **Clyde Christensen**, wide receivers; **Leslie Frazier**, asst. def.; **Gene Huey**, running backs; **Ron Meeks**, def. coord.; **Tom Moore**, off. coord.; **Howard Mudd**, off. line; **Mike Murphy**, linebackers; **Russ Purnell**, special teams; **John Teerlinck**, def. line; **Ricky Thomas**, tight ends; **Alan Williams**, def. backs

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18 | Manning, Peyton | QB | 6-5 | 230 | 03/24/1976 | 8 | Tennessee |
| 12 | Sorgi, Jim | QB | 6-5 | 196 | 12/03/1980 | 2 | Wisconsin |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 71 | Diem, Ryan | T | 6-6 | 320 | 07/01/1979 | 5 | Northern Illinois |
| 76 | Freitas, Makoa | T | 6-4 | 295 | 11/23/1979 | 2 | Arizona |
| 57 | Gandy, Dylan | C | 6-3 | 302 | 03/08/1982 | 1 | Texas Tech |
| 78 | Glenn, Tarik | T | 6-5 | 332 | 05/25/1976 | 9 | California |
| 62 | Johnson, Mike | C | 6-4 | 290 | 03/26/1982 | 0 | Kansas State |
| 67 | Lacy, Bo | T | 6-4 | 300 | 11/22/1980 | 0 | Arkansas |
| 65 | Lilja, Ryan | G | 6-2 | 285 | 10/15/1981 | 2 | Kansas State |
| 63 | Saturday, Jeff | C | 6-2 | 295 | 06/08/1975 | 7 | North Carolina |
| 73 | Scott, Jake | G | 6-5 | 288 | 04/16/1981 | 2 | Idaho |
| 69 | Ulrich, Matt | G | 6-2 | 309 | 12/30/1981 | 1 | Northwestern |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 31 | Chapman, Kory | RB | 6-1 | 202 | 07/13/1980 | 1 | Jacksonville State |
| 23 | Mungro, James | RB | 5-9 | 214 | 02/13/1978 | 4 | Syracuse |
| 34 | Pearson, Vashon | RB | 5-10 | 205 | 01/23/1983 | 0 | Mississippi |
| 33 | Rhodes, Dominic | RB | 5-9 | 203 | 01/17/1979 | 4 | Midwestern State |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 44 | Clark, Dallas | TE | 6-3 | 252 | 06/12/1979 | 3 | Iowa |
| 10 | Crosby, Roscoe | WR | 6-2 | 210 | 02/06/1983 | 0 | Clemson |
| 81 | Fletcher, Bryan | TE | 6-5 | 230 | 03/23/1979 | 1 | UCLA |
| 88 | Harrison, Marvin | WR | 6-0 | 175 | 08/25/1972 | 10 | Syracuse |
| 80 | Hartsock, Ben | TE | 6-4 | 255 | 07/05/1980 | 2 | Ohio State |
| 85 | Moorehead, Aaron | WR | 6-3 | 200 | 11/05/1980 | 3 | Illinois |
| 48 | Snow, Justin | TE | 6-3 | 240 | 12/21/1976 | 6 | Baylor |
| 84 | Standeford, John | WR | 6-4 | 206 | 04/15/1982 | 0 | Purdue |
| 83 | Stokley, Brandon | WR | 5-11 | 197 | 06/23/1976 | 7 | La.-Lafayette |
| 86 | Utecht, Ben | TE | 6-6 | 251 | 06/30/1981 | 1 | Minnesota |
| 87 | Wayne, Reggie | WR | 6-0 | 198 | 11/17/1978 | 5 | Miami (FL) |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 79 | Brock, Raheem | DE | 6-4 | 274 | 06/10/1978 | 4 | Temple |
| 72 | Burns, Vincent | DT | 6-2 | 260 | 06/21/1981 | 0 | Kentucky |
| 93 | Freeney, Dwight | DE | 6-1 | 268 | 02/19/1980 | 4 | Syracuse |
| 98 | Mathis, Robert | DE | 6-2 | 235 | 02/26/1981 | 3 | Alabama A&M |
| 90 | Reagor, Montae | DT | 6-3 | 285 | 06/29/1977 | 7 | Texas Tech |
| 95 | Reid, Darrell | DE | 6-2 | 288 | 06/20/1982 | 1 | Minnesota |
| 97 | Simon, Corey | DT | 6-2 | 293 | 03/02/1977 | 6 | Florida State |
| 91 | Thomas, Josh | DE | 6-5 | 271 | 06/26/1981 | 2 | Syracuse |
| 99 | Welsh, Jonathan | DE | 6-4 | 228 | 06/09/1982 | 1 | Wisconsin |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 42 | David, Jason | CB | 5-8 | 172 | 06/12/1982 | 2 | Washington State |
| 20 | Doss, Mike | S | 5-10 | 207 | 03/24/1981 | 3 | Ohio State |
| 43 | Giordano, Matt | S | 5-11 | 192 | 10/16/1982 | 1 | California |
| 25 | Harper, Nick | CB | 5-10 | 182 | 09/10/1974 | 5 | Fort Valley State |
| 26 | Hayden, Kelvin | CB | 6-0 | 195 | 07/23/1983 | 1 | Illinois |
| 37 | Hill, Eric | CB | 6-0 | 190 | 05/22/1980 | 0 | Colorado State |
| 27 | Hutchins, Von | CB | 5-9 | 181 | 02/14/1981 | 2 | Mississippi |
| 28 | Jackson, Marlin | CB | 6-0 | 196 | 06/30/1983 | 1 | Michigan |
| 30 | Lynch, Brandon | S | 5-11 | 192 | 01/31/1982 | 0 | Middle Tenn. St. |
| 36 | Reid, Dexter | S | 5-11 | 203 | 03/18/1981 | 2 | North Carolina |
| 21 | Sanders, Bob | S | 5-8 | 206 | 02/24/1981 | 2 | Iowa |
| 38 | Sapp, Gerome | S | 6-1 | 216 | 02/08/1981 | 3 | Notre Dame |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 58 | Brackett, Gary | LB | 5-11 | 235 | 05/23/1980 | 3 | Rutgers |
| 51 | Gardner, Gilbert | LB | 6-1 | 228 | 05/09/1982 | 2 | Purdue |
| 55 | Goddard, Johnathan | LB | 6-0 | 238 | 05/11/1981 | 1 | Marshall |
| 59 | June, Cato | LB | 6-0 | 227 | 11/18/1979 | 3 | Michigan |
| 40 | Laskowski, Chris | LB | 5-9 | 210 | 09/12/1981 | 0 | Florida Atlantic |
| 94 | Morris, Rob | LB | 6-2 | 243 | 01/18/1975 | 6 | Brigham Young |
| 53 | O'Neil, Keith | LB | 6-0 | 240 | 08/26/1980 | 3 | Northern Arizona |
| 52 | Whiteside, Keyon | LB | 6-0 | 229 | 01/31/1980 | 2 | Tennessee |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 17 | Smith, Hunter | P | 6-2 | 209 | 08/09/1977 | 7 | Notre Dame |
| 4 | Vinatieri, Adam | K | 6-0 | 202 | 12/28/1972 | 10 | South Dakota St. |

2005 RECORD: 12-4 | www.jaguars.com

# JACKSONVILLE

## JAGUARS

AFC SOUTH #2

ALLTEL STADIUM
CAPACITY: 76,877 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 904-633-2000

### POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 3 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 3 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| LINEBACKERS | 2 |
| SECONDARY | 3 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 3 |

### PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Byron Leftwich | LE | Reggie Hayward | P | Chris Hanson |
| FB | Greg Jones | LT | Marcus Stroud | PR | Rashean Mathis |
| RB | Fred Taylor | RT | John Henderson | K | Josh Scobee |
| LT | Khalif Barnes | RE | Paul Spicer | KR | Derrick Wimbush |
| LG | Vince Manuwai | LLB | Nick Greisen | | |
| C | Brad Meester | MLB | Mike Peterson | | |
| RG | Chris Naeole | RLB | Daryl Smith | | |
| RT | Maurice Williams | LCB | Rashean Mathis | | |
| TE | Kyle Brady | RCB | Brian Williams | | |
| WR | Matt Jones | SS | Donovin Darius | | |
| WR | Ernest Wilford | FS | Deon Grant | | |

**ON THE RISE**

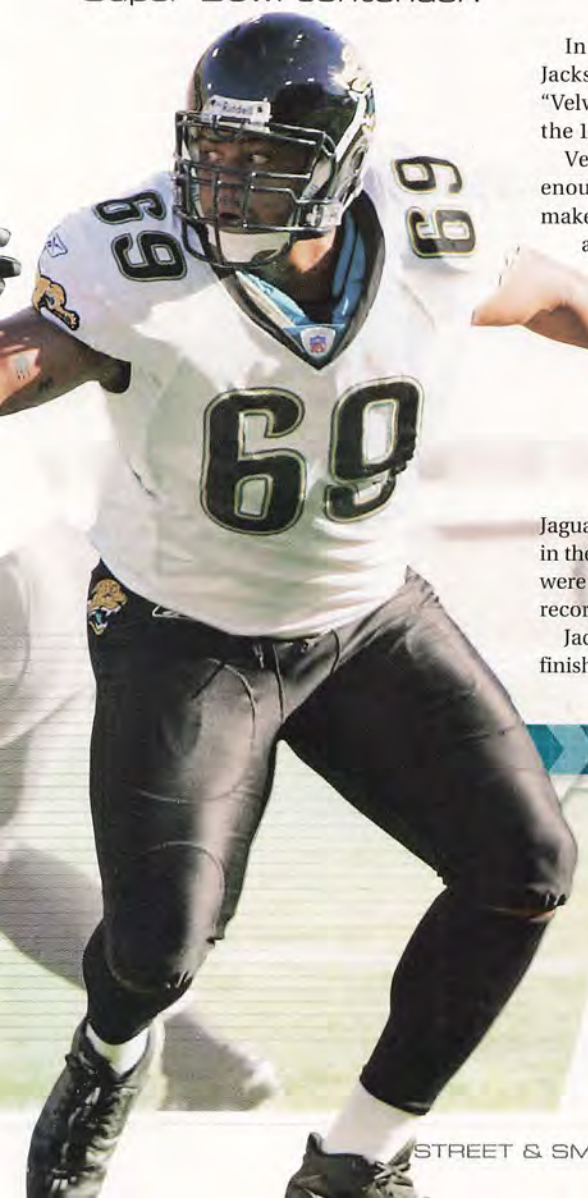
**RASHEAN MATHIS**
cornerback
He has established himself as the team's best CB in three seasons.

**FADING FAST**

**FRED TAYLOR**
running back
Taylor might be suffering from overuse with more than 2,000 NFL touches; he missed five games in 2005.

# If the Glove fits ...

Del Rio's Jags are ever so close to getting over the hump of truly being taken seriously as a Super Bowl contender.



In the NBA, teams such as the Jacksonville Jaguars are referred to as the "Velvet Glove." Think Atlanta Hawks of the 1980s.

Velvet Glove teams are just good enough to make the playoffs, but can't make it past the first round. Then they get a bad draft pick.

The Jaguars went 12-4 in 2005 and made the playoffs for the first time since 1999. They had no chance in a wild-card playoff game at New England, where they lost 28-3.

And though the Jaguars won eight of their last nine games in the regular season, all eight victories were against teams that finished with losing records.

Jacksonville was one of just four teams to finish with 12 or more victories (joining 14-2 Indianapolis and 13-3 Seattle and Denver) thanks, in part, to a .465 win-loss mark for its opponents.

This season will provide a more accurate measure of just how good Jacksonville is. They will have eight games against teams with winning records—including a Monday night game in November when former Jags Coach Tom Coughlin returns to Jacksonville for the first time with his New York Giants.

"We'll find out," Jaguars Coach Jack Del Rio says when asked if his schedule is as tough as advertised. "At this point, [an] offseason look, you play it. Who knows how it's going to shake out, how teams are going to fare, whether there are going to be a rash of injuries, whether people are going to fortify themselves, lose people, whatever it might be throughout the offseason.

"At this point, we know that historically the NFC East has been a strong division. I think the AFC East has also been a strong division. We're playing both of those divisions."

Jacksonville's first four games are against Dallas, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis and Washington. The Jags could start off 0-4.

Though the Jaguars are not as good as their record appeared last year, they

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## THE BOOK ON ... KHALIF BARNES

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"He played well as a rookie. ...

"The most significant improvement for these guys is in their second year. They get a feel for their opponents and the league. They develop some familiarity with the opponent. They learn a guy's techniques and nuances, and they really develop at that point. ...

"He was a first-round talent who fell to the second round (in 2005). He has been terrific. He started beginning in Week 5, and they went 10-2 with him in the lineup. Sacks went way down."

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; PAUL SPINELLI / GETTY IMAGES

### FACT

The Jaguars finished 12-4—the second-best record in team history—and made the playoffs for the first time since 1999.

### STAT

Jacksonville allowed only four rushing touchdowns in 2005, fewest in the NFL, and has allowed only 23 from 2003-05, tying with Baltimore for fewest in the league over that span.

### LOOK IT UP

Jimmy Smith, who retired in May, had his ninth 1,000-yard receiving season in 2005, tied for second most in NFL history with Tim Brown. Jerry Rice is the leader with 14.

### 5-YEAR WINS

### JAGUARS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. TOM COUGHLIN (8 YEARS)
   **Record with Jaguars:** 72-64
2. JACK DEL RIO (3 YEARS)
   **Record with Jaguars:** 26-23

### THE COUNT

**6**
Jaguars' NFL-low interceptions thrown in 2005, a new team record.

**14**
Consecutive games won under Coach Jack Del Rio when leading at halftime.

**77**
Points the Jaguars outscored their opponents by in the third quarter, the highest differential in the NFL.

are not a bad team. They are, in fact, solid. They beat both of the Super Bowl teams. They defeated Seattle in sweltering Jacksonville heat in the season opener, when the Jags made the Seahawks wear their dark jerseys. Then, in Week Six, Jacksonville went on the road to Pittsburgh and upset the Steelers in an overtime game in which Ben Roethlisberger and Hines Ward did not play.

And credit the Jaguars for coming from behind in nine of their 12 victories.

Despite gains offensively—the Jaguars scored 361 points, 100 more than in 2004—the defense, especially the front four, remains the team's strongest unit. The Jags finished sixth in the NFL in total defense and were an impressive plus-11 in turnover differential.

The Jaguars allowed only 290.9 yards per game, 30 fewer on average than in 2004. They had 19 interceptions—five by cornerback Rashean Mathis—the most in the franchise's 11 seasons. They allowed just 269 points (16.8 per game) and gave up an NFL-low four rushing touchdowns. Six times the Jaguars held the opposition to 14 or fewer points, including Seattle (14) and Indianapolis (10).

The team's stars are on defense.

Tackle Marcus Stroud was selected as a Pro Bowl starter for the third year in a row. Linebacker Mike Peterson had a career-high 190 total tackles to go with six sacks and three interceptions. Mathis had five interceptions for a second consecutive season. Free-agent defensive end Reggie Hayward had a team-best 8.5 sacks and 55 quarterback pressures.

Jacksonville added two free-agent starters on defense in former Minnesota cornerback Brian Williams, to whom they gave a $10 million signing bonus to, and ex-Giants linebacker Nick Greisen, who

## NFL DRAFT 2006 DRAFT REPORT

**Marcedes Lewis** dominated early in his senior season, looking like a sure first-round draft choice, but he struggled some down the stretch. If he can improve his blocking skills, the former UCLA Bruin should take some of the pressure off the outside receivers. At just 5-7, **Maurice Jones-Drew** did it all for UCLA last season as a runner, receiver and return man. He will be groomed to replace Fred Taylor. **Clint Ingram** is an underrated SAM linebacker prospect and fills a position of need for the Jaguars. Defensive end/outside linebacker **Brent Hawkins** dominated in I-AA last season, but will need to find his position in the NFL. **James Wyche** is a top athlete, but has struggled to put it all together on the field. **Dee Webb** was a standout corner in the SEC last season, but had to be disappointed in waiting until the final round to hear his name called. The two former UCLA players will need to take some of the pressure off Byron Leftwich to make this a successful draft for the Jags.

GRADE: **C+**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 28 | Lewis, Marcedes | TE | 6-6 | 262 | UCLA |
| 2 | 28 | Jones-Drew, Maurice | RB | 5-7 | 206 | UCLA |
| 3 | 16 | Ingram, Clint | LB | 6-0 | 245 | Oklahoma |
| 5 | 27 | Hawkins, Brent | DE | 6-2 | 241 | Illinois State |
| 7 | 5 | Wyche, James | DE | 6-5 | 263 | Syracuse |
| 7 | 28 | Webb, Demetrice (Dee) | DB | 5-11 | 182 | Florida |

### HE SAID IT:

**I feel that when it's all said and done I can possibly be one of the greatest tight ends to ever play the game. I'm willing to listen. I'm coachable. I'm a sponge. I soak stuff up and just try to apply it to the field. With those tools, I can go a long way with that.**

*—first-round pick Marcedes Lewis on his chances to be a star in the NFL*

## 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 1** vs. Dallas | SEPT. 10 | 4:15 SCORE |
| **WEEK 2** vs. Pittsburgh | SEPT. 18 | 8:30 SCORE |
| **WEEK 3** @ Indianapolis | SEPT. 24 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 4** @ Washington | OCT. 1 | 4:15 SCORE |
| **WEEK 5** vs. New York Jets | OCT. 8 | 4:05 SCORE |
| **WEEK 6** *OPEN DATE* | | |
| **WEEK 7** @ Houston | OCT. 22 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 8** @ Philadelphia | OCT. 29 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 9** vs. Tennessee | NOV. 5 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 10** vs. Houston | NOV. 12 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 11** vs. New York Giants | NOV. 20 | 8:30 |

★ **MUST-SEE GAME** ★

*On "Monday Night Football," former Jaguars Coach Tom Coughlin will make his first return to Jacksonville with his New York Giants. He coached the Jaguars for the first eight years of their existence until he was fired after the 2002 season.*

SCORE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 12** @ Buffalo | NOV. 26 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 13** @ Miami | DEC. 3 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 14** vs. Indianapolis | DEC. 10 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 15** @ Tennessee | DEC. 17 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 16** vs. New England | DEC. 24 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 17** @ Kansas City | DEC. 31 | 1:00 SCORE |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | W | 26-14 | Seattle |
| 09/18 | L | 3-10 | at Indianapolis |
| 09/25 | W | 26-20 | at New York Jets |
| 10/02 | L | 7-20 | Denver |
| 10/09 | W | 23-20 | Cincinnati |
| 10/16 | W | 23-17 | at Pittsburgh |
| 10/30 | L | 21-24 | at St. Louis |
| 11/06 | W | 21-14 | Houston |
| 11/13 | W | 30-3 | Baltimore |
| 11/20 | W | 31-28 | at Tennessee |
| 11/27 | W | 24-17 | at Arizona |
| 12/04 | W | 20-14 | at Cleveland |
| 12/11 | L | 18-26 | Indianapolis |
| 12/18 | W | 10-9 | San Francisco |
| 12/24 | W | 38-20 | at Houston |
| 01/01 | W | 40-13 | Tennessee |

WON **12**, LOST **4**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Taylor | 194 | 787 | 4.1 | 71t | 3 |
| G. Jones | 151 | 575 | 3.8 | 27 | 4 |
| Garrard | 31 | 172 | 5.5 | 28 | 3 |
| Pearman | 39 | 149 | 3.8 | 45 | 1 |
| Toefield | 36 | 142 | 3.9 | 32t | 4 |
| Leftwich | 31 | 67 | 2.2 | 9 | 2 |
| M. Jones | 12 | 51 | 4.3 | 25 | 0 |
| Wimbush | 3 | 12 | 4.0 | 7 | 1 |
| R. Williams | 2 | 3 | 1.5 | 10 | 0 |
| Gray | 3 | 1 | 0.3 | 3 | 0 |
| **Jaguars** | **502** | **1959** | **3.9** | **71t** | **18** |
| **Opponents** | **434** | **1709** | **3.9** | **51** | **4** |

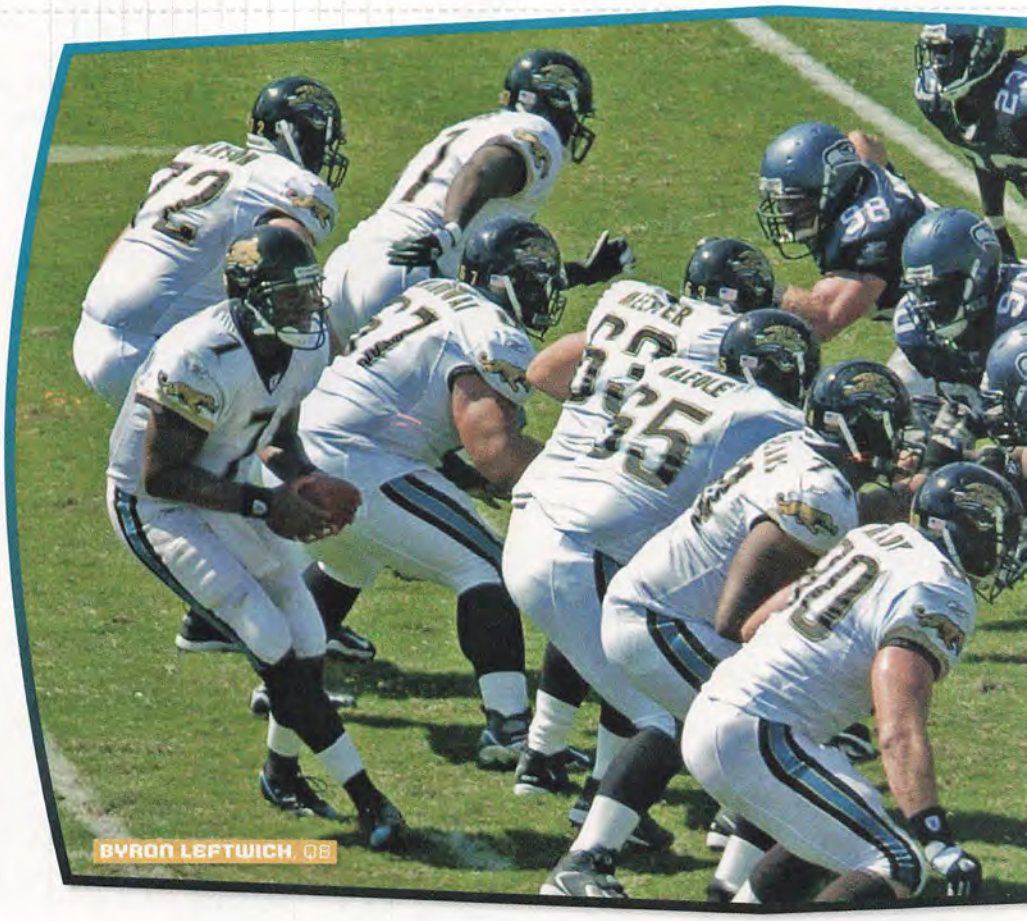
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J. Smith | 70 | 1023 | 14.6 | 45t | 6 |
| Wilford | 41 | 681 | 16.6 | 39 | 7 |
| M. Jones | 36 | 432 | 12.0 | 42 | 5 |
| R. Williams | 35 | 445 | 12.7 | 41 | 0 |
| Pearman | 32 | 240 | 7.5 | 19 | 0 |
| Brady | 18 | 157 | 8.7 | 33 | 1 |
| Taylor | 13 | 83 | 6.4 | 13 | 0 |
| Wrighster | 13 | 120 | 9.2 | 27 | 2 |
| G. Jones | 10 | 65 | 6.5 | 10 | 0 |
| Wimbush | 5 | 26 | 5.2 | 6 | 0 |
| B. Jones | 3 | 49 | 16.3 | 41 | 0 |
| Toefield | 3 | 17 | 5.7 | 11 | 0 |
| Hankton | 3 | 15 | 5.0 | 8 | 0 |
| Manuwai | 1 | -1 | -1.0 | -1 | 0 |
| **Jaguars** | **283** | **3352** | **11.8** | **45t** | **21** |
| **Opponents** | **285** | **3223** | **11.3** | **83t** | **22** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leftwich | 302 | 175 | 2123 | 15 | 5 |
| Garrard | 168 | 98 | 1117 | 4 | 1 |
| Gray | 14 | 8 | 100 | 2 | 0 |
| Jones | 3 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| **Jaguars** | **487** | **283** | **3352** | **21** | **6** |
| **Opponents** | **482** | **285** | **3223** | **22** | **19** |

**SACKS**

Hayward 8.5, Spicer 7.5, Meier 6, Peterson 6, McCray 5.5, D. Smith 4, Henderson 3, Ayodele 2.5, Grant 1.5, Maddox 1, Stroud 1, Cousin 0.5

**Jaguars 47, Opponents 32**


BYRON LEFTWICH, QB

started 12 games last year in New York. Then the Jaguars used their third-round draft pick on linebacker Clint Ingram of Oklahoma. He is expected to help replace departed free agent Akin Ayodele.

Del Rio, a former defensive coach and NFL linebacker, is a stickler for fundamentals.

"We had more explosive runs allowed last year than I'm comfortable with," he says.

Offensively, Del Rio wants to maintain the Jaguars' run orientation, but Fred Taylor, the longtime feature back, could be phased out. They used their second-round draft pick on tailback Maurice Jones-Drew of UCLA. Though too small at 5-7 to take the pounding Taylor has, Drew could be part of a running back-by-committee setup. Fullback Greg Jones, in his second season, rushed for 575 yards and a 3.8-yard average with four touchdowns. Even at 250 pounds, Jones could work as a tailback. In his rookie season, backup tailback Alvin Pearman contributed 149 rushing yards and 240 receiving yards.

The Jaguars are becoming more proficient in the pass game. Though he has only an average career-completion percentage, quarterback Byron Leftwich makes few mistakes. He threw just five interceptions in 302 attempts in 2005, compared with 15 touchdowns.

Jacksonville's coaches want to see Leftwich slide more in the pocket to avoid the rush and throw better on the run. Otherwise, they are pleased with his knowledge and command of the offense as well as his leadership; he was selected offensive captain in 2005.

The front office gave Leftwich another top target by using the club's first-round draft choice on tight end Marcedes Lewis of UCLA. Lewis' blocking improved as a senior with the Bruins, and he will not be

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Jaguars)*

"I think Jacksonville is one of the teams that clearly has the opportunity to make a run at the whole thing this year. Their defense puts them in a position to be in every game. ...

"I like them a lot because of their defense. It starts with their toughness and physical defense. On offense, they have a strong quarterback [Byron Leftwich] and a strong running game."

(L TO R): AL MESSERSCHMIDT / WIRE IMAGE.COM; COURTESY NFL (2)

a weak spot in the run game. With the offseason retirement of Jimmy Smith, he will team with wide receivers Reggie Williams and Matt Jones—the team's two previous first-round picks—to form the core of the Jags' receiving corps in the future.

In addition to Taylor, the Jaguars could also be counting down the career of tight end Kyle Brady, a glorified offensive tackle, with the selection of Lewis.

The club has used a number of first-day and middle-round draft picks on their offense in the past three years, starting with Leftwich.

"We've invested a lot of draft picks, [and] a lot of energy has gone into developing our offensive talent, and we need to see that develop fully or further," Del Rio says.

The Jaguars are clearly the second-best team in the AFC South. They lost two close games to division-champion Indianapolis (10-3, 26-18) and match up well with the Colts. If Del Rio and his coaches can find a way to get past Indy and win the division, they will wiggle out of the NFL's version of the Velvet Glove.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Nick Greisen**, LB (NYG)
- **Brian Williams**, CB (MIN)
- **Mike Williams**, OT (BUF)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Akin Ayodele**, LB (DAL)
- **Kenny Wright**, CB (WAS)
- **Deke Cooper**, DB (MIA)
- **Jamie Winborn**, LB (TB)
- **Mike Pearson**, OT (MIA)
- **Jimmy Smith**, WR (Retired)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 321.8 | 15t |
| Rushing | 122.4 | 10 |
| Passing | 199.4 | 19 |
| Scoring | 361 | 12 |
| Punt Returns | 7.8 | 17 |
| Kick Returns | 23.9 | 7 |
| Red Zone TD % | 59.2 | 8 |
| Total Defense | 290.9 | 6 |
| Against Rush | 106.8 | 14 |
| Against Pass | 184.1 | 7 |
| Points Allowed | 269 | 6 |
| Interceptions | 19 | 7t |
| Sacks | 47 | 3t |
| Turnover Diff. | +11 | 5t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 301 | 97 | 170 | 34 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | PCT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 49 | 248 | 29 | 15 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 18 | 21 | 1 | 2 |

## JAGUARS ROSTER

**Jack Del Rio, head coach**; **Dave Campo**, asst. head coach/secondary; **Pete Rodriguez**, special teams coord.; **Carl Smith**, off. coord.; **Mike Smith**, def. coord.; **Mike Tice**, asst. head coach/off.; **Ken Anderson**, quarterbacks; **Mark Duffner**, linebackers; **Ray Hamilton**, def. line; **Andy Heck**, off. line; **Mark Michaels**, asst. special teams; **Ted Monachino**, asst. def. line; **Kennedy Pola**, running backs; **Alvin Reynolds**, def. backs; **Alfredo Roberts**, tight ends; **Steve Walters**, wide receivers

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | Garrard, David | QB | 6-2 | 244 | 02/14/1978 | 4 | East Carolina |
| 5 | Gray, Quinn | QB | 6-3 | 246 | 05/21/1979 | 1 | Florida A&M |
| 7 | Leftwich, Byron | QB | 6-5 | 245 | 01/14/1980 | 3 | Marshall |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 69 | Barnes, Khalif | T | 6-5 | 305 | 04/21/1982 | 1 | Washington |
| 61 | Connolly, Dan | G | 6-4 | 311 | 09/02/1982 | 1 | SE Missouri State |
| 60 | Economos, Andrew | C | 6-1 | 232 | 06/03/1980 | 0 | Georgia Tech |
| 68 | Fletcher, Derrick | G | 6-6 | 350 | 09/09/1975 | 3 | Baylor |
| 79 | Joseph, Carlos | T | 6-6 | 342 | 07/14/1980 | 0 | Miami (FL) |
| 67 | Manuwai, Vince | G | 6-2 | 312 | 07/12/1980 | 3 | Hawaii |
| 73 | McDougle, Stockar | T | 6-6 | 348 | 01/11/1977 | 6 | Oklahoma |
| 63 | Meester, Brad | C | 6-3 | 300 | 03/23/1977 | 6 | Northern Iowa |
| 65 | Naeole, Chris | G | 6-3 | 320 | 12/25/1974 | 9 | Colorado |
| 62 | Norman, Dennis | C | 6-5 | 312 | 01/26/1980 | 2 | Princeton |
| 66 | Romberg, Brett | C | 6-3 | 293 | 10/10/1979 | 0 | Miami (FL) |
| 74 | Williams, Maurice | T | 6-5 | 310 | 01/26/1979 | 5 | Michigan |
| 77 | Williams, Mike | T | 6-6 | 360 | 01/11/1980 | 4 | Texas |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 40 | Alexis, Rich | RB | 6-0 | 213 | 03/06/1981 | 1 | Washington |
| 33 | Jones, Greg | RB | 6-1 | 250 | 04/04/1981 | 2 | Florida State |
| 34 | Pearman, Alvin | RB | 5-9 | 208 | 08/10/1982 | 1 | Virginia |
| 28 | Taylor, Fred | RB | 6-1 | 234 | 01/27/1976 | 8 | Florida |
| 22 | Toefield, LaBrandon | RB | 5-11 | 232 | 09/24/1980 | 3 | LSU |
| 36 | Wimbush, Derrick | RB | 6-1 | 211 | 08/26/1980 | 1 | Fort Valley State |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 80 | Brady, Kyle | TE | 6-6 | 278 | 01/14/1972 | 11 | Penn State |
| 85 | Hankton, Cortez | WR | 6-0 | 200 | 01/20/1981 | 3 | Texas Southern |
| 89 | Hill, Kahlil | WR | 6-2 | 200 | 03/18/1979 | 1 | Iowa |
| 86 | Jones, Brian | TE | 6-3 | 235 | 08/23/1981 | 2 | Ark.-Pine Bluff |
| 18 | Jones, Matt | WR | 6-6 | 242 | 04/22/1983 | 1 | Arkansas |
| 84 | Owens, Chad | WR | 5-7 | 183 | 04/03/1982 | 1 | Hawaii |
| 13 | Stamps, Fred | WR | 6-1 | 184 | 12/10/1980 | 0 | La.-Lafayette |
| 19 | Wilford, Ernest | WR | 6-4 | 223 | 01/14/1979 | 2 | Virginia Tech |
| 11 | Williams, Reggie | WR | 6-4 | 223 | 05/17/1983 | 2 | Washington |
| 87 | Wrighster, George | TE | 6-2 | 260 | 04/01/1981 | 3 | Oregon |
| 83 | Yoder, Todd | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 03/18/1978 | 5 | Vanderbilt |
| 88 | Zelenka, Joe | TE | 6-3 | 270 | 03/09/1976 | 7 | Wake Forest |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 70 | Curry, Walter | DT | 6-4 | 268 | 06/18/1981 | 0 | Albany State |
| 96 | Davis, Jim | DE | 6-3 | 276 | 10/04/1981 | 1 | Virginia Tech |
| 90 | Hand, Omari | DE | 6-4 | 265 | 07/03/1980 | 1 | Tennessee |
| 97 | Hayward, Reggie | DE | 6-5 | 270 | 03/14/1979 | 5 | Iowa State |
| 98 | Henderson, John | DT | 6-7 | 328 | 01/09/1979 | 4 | Tennessee |
| 91 | Maddox, Anthony | DT | 6-1 | 295 | 11/22/1978 | 2 | Delta State |
| 93 | McCray, Bobby | DE | 6-5 | 251 | 11/01/1981 | 2 | Florida |
| 92 | Meier, Rob | DT | 6-5 | 293 | 08/29/1977 | 6 | Washington State |
| 78 | Patterson, Elton | DE | 6-2 | 271 | 06/13/1981 | 1 | UCF |
| 95 | Spicer, Paul | DE | 6-4 | 287 | 08/18/1975 | 7 | Saginaw Valley St. |
| 99 | Stroud, Marcus | DT | 6-6 | 312 | 06/25/1978 | 5 | Georgia |
| 75 | Wiley, Marcellus | DE | 6-4 | 275 | 11/30/1974 | 9 | Columbia |
| 94 | Williams, Tony | DT | 6-2 | 296 | 07/09/1975 | 8 | Memphis |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 21 | Cousin, Terry | CB | 5-9 | 185 | 04/11/1975 | 9 | South Carolina |
| 20 | Darius, Donovin | S | 6-1 | 225 | 08/12/1975 | 8 | Syracuse |
| 37 | Grant, Deon | S | 6-2 | 210 | 03/14/1979 | 5 | Tennessee |
| 27 | Mathis, Rashean | CB | 6-1 | 200 | 08/27/1980 | 3 | Bethune-Cookman |
| 26 | Richardson, David | CB | 6-0 | 202 | 09/09/1981 | 2 | Cal Poly |
| 38 | Roberson, Chris | CB | 5-11 | 185 | 06/03/1983 | 1 | Eastern Michigan |
| 43 | Sensabaugh, Gerald | S | 6-0 | 210 | 06/13/1983 | 1 | North Carolina |
| 41 | Sorensen, Nick | S | 6-3 | 210 | 07/31/1978 | 5 | Virginia Tech |
| 31 | Starks, Scott | CB | 5-9 | 177 | 06/27/1983 | 1 | Wisconsin |
| 29 | Williams, Brian | CB | 5-11 | 207 | 07/02/1979 | 4 | N.C. State |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 58 | Cordova, Jorge | LB | 6-1 | 241 | 09/25/1981 | 0 | Nevada |
| 50 | Gilbert, Tony | LB | 6-1 | 244 | 10/16/1979 | 3 | Georgia |
| 55 | Greisen, Nick | LB | 6-1 | 245 | 08/10/1979 | 5 | Wisconsin |
| 54 | Peterson, Mike | LB | 6-1 | 230 | 06/17/1976 | 7 | Florida |
| 52 | Smith, Daryl | LB | 6-2 | 234 | 04/14/1982 | 2 | Georgia Tech |
| 53 | Thomas, Pat | LB | 6-2 | 237 | 01/26/1983 | 1 | N.C. State |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 2 | Hanson, Chris | P | 6-1 | 223 | 10/25/1976 | 6 | Marshall |
| 10 | Scobee, Josh | K | 6-1 | 190 | 06/23/1982 | 2 | Louisiana Tech |

2005 RECORD: 2-14 | www.houstontexans.com

# HOUSTON TEXANS

AFC SOUTH #3

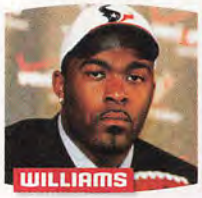
RELIANT STADIUM
CAPACITY: 71,054 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 866-GO-TEXANS

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 2 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 2 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 3 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| LINEBACKERS | 3 |
| SECONDARY | 3 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 2 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | David Carr | LE | Anthony Weaver | P | Chad Stanley |
| FB | Jameel Cook | LT | Seth Payne | PR | Phillip Buchanon |
| RB | Domanick Davis | RT | Robaire Smith | H | Kris Brown |
| LT | Chester Pitts | RE | Mario Williams | KR | Jerome Mathis |
| LG | Steve McKinney | LLB | Morlon Greenwood | | |
| C | Mike Flanagan | MLB | Sam Cowart | | |
| RG | Zach Wiegert | RLB | Shantee Orr | | |
| RT | Todd Wade | LCB | Dunta Robinson | | |
| TE | Mark Bruener | RCB | Demarcus Faggins | | |
| WR | Eric Moulds | SS | Glenn Earl | | |
| WR | Andre Johnson | FS | C.C. Brown | | |




### ON THE RISE

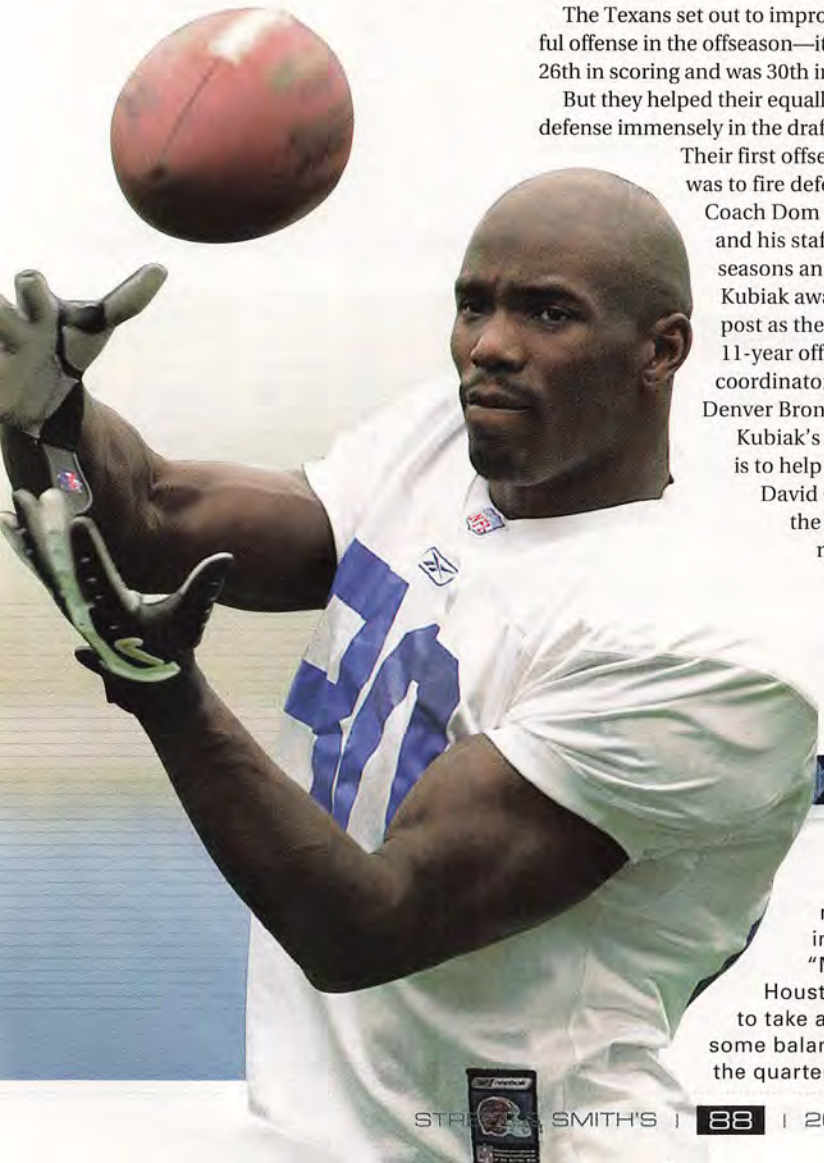
**MARIO WILLIAMS**
defensive lineman
The first overall pick from N.C. State brings a lot of much-needed firepower.

### FADING FAST

**PHILLIP BUCHANON**
cornerback
The former No. 1 is not even projected as a starter and is simply the team's best punt returner these days.

# Getting offensive

With the hiring of longtime Denver coordinator Gary Kubiak as head coach, the Texans are looking to score some points for a change.



The Texans set out to improve their pitiful offense in the offseason—it was tied for 26th in scoring and was 30th in total yards.

But they helped their equally poor defense immensely in the draft.

Their first offseason move was to fire defense-oriented Coach Dom Capers and his staff after four seasons and hire Gary Kubiak away from his post as the successful 11-year offensive coordinator of the Denver Broncos.

Kubiak's stated goal is to help quarterback David Carr regain the luster that made him the franchise's first-ever draft pick. Coaching was a major problem that contributed to the Texans' NFL-worst 2-14 record in 2005. Neither the offensive nor defensive coordinators has been rehired in the NFL, and only four of the position coaches landed new jobs. Those are signs of a poor staff.

The Texans weren't really as bad as their record suggests. They lost two blowout games on national television, but otherwise they often led contests into the fourth quarter and blew late leads.

Houston made a key move by hiring former Green Bay Head Coach Mike Sherman as offensive coordinator. A longtime offensive line coach in college, Sherman was given the keys to the Texans' underperforming O-line. The staff and front office are banking on Sherman's expertise to raise the level of play at that position. The right side with guard Zach Wiegert and tackle Todd Wade is considered the weakest part of the line.

"It's nice to have somebody who's been there, where you can go down the hallway and say, 'I'm fixing to do this. What do you think?'" Kubiak says of Sherman. "You have so much respect for his opinion because he's had to make those decisions on a daily basis."

One of the decisions made was to trade for disgruntled Bills wideout Eric Moulds. He gives the Texans the strong second

## THE BOOK ON ... ERIC MOULDS

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Between [Andre] Johnson and Eric Moulds, they now have two of the most explosive downfield receivers in the game. ...

"Moulds is a guy who will make an immediate impact in Houston. Moulds can win one-on-one matchups. He's going to take a lot of pressure off Johnson and finally give them some balance in the pass game. Now, if they can just protect the quarterback."

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TOP TO BOTTOM: BOB LEVEY / WIRE IMAGE.COM; DAVID DUPREY / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTO

## FACT

Tackle/guard Chester Pitts is the only player to play every offensive snap in the Texans' four-year team history.

## STAT

Jerome Mathis broke the Texans' franchise record for most kickoff-return yards (266) in a game against Indianapolis in Week Seven, then matched his club record in Week 11 against Kansas City. The two 266-yard outings are the fifth-best single-game kickoff-return performances in NFL history.

## LOOK IT UP

With 3,195 career rushing yards, Texans RB Domanick Davis, the 101st overall pick in the 2003 draft, has outperformed all six backs selected before him (No. 23 Willis McGahee, No. 27 Larry Johnson, No. 77 Musa Smith, No. 93 Chris Brown, No. 96 Justin Fargas and No. 99 Artose Pinner).

## 5-YEAR WINS

## TEXANS' BEST-EVER COACHES

**1** DOM CAPERS (4 YEARS)

**Record with Texans:** 18-46

After a successful Year Three in which the Texans finished 7-9, Capers appeared to have the team poised for a serious playoff run. But Houston went 2-14 in 2005, and Capers—the expansion team's only head coach—was fired and replaced with offensive guru Gary Kubiak.

## THE COUNT

**37**
Team-record sacks by the Texans in 2005, a jump from 24 in 2004.

**25.9**
Average yards per return by Houston's kickoff return unit in 2005, which ranked second in the NFL.

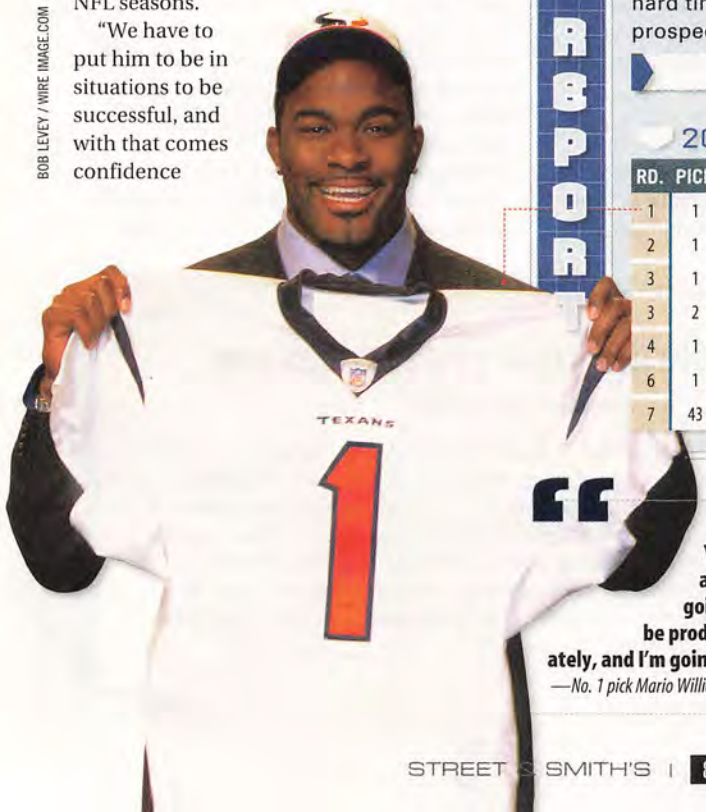
**17**
Fumbles by David Carr in 2005, tied for most in the NFL.

receiver they've lacked since entering the league as an expansion team in 2002. Moulds' presence opposite No. 1 wideout Andre Johnson will help limit opposing defenses' ability to focus solely on Johnson. Moulds was eighth in the AFC with 81 receptions.

The Texans also signed free-agent center Mike Flanagan from Green Bay. His experience should be beneficial to Carr as well. Carr could have a crew of Pro Bowl receivers, but they wouldn't be much help if the line doesn't do a better job of protection. He was sacked 68 times in 2005. Carr's reluctance to get rid of the ball was part of the problem. At least five times last year, Carr ran out of bounds behind the line of scrimmage, essentially sacking himself.

But he has been sacked 208 times in four NFL seasons.

"We have to put him to be in situations to be successful, and with that comes confidence




BOB LEVEY / WIRE IMAGE.COM

## DRAFT REPORT

It took until the night before the draft for the Texans to make their intentions known to draft DE **Mario Williams** with the No. 1 overall selection. It was an understandable choice with Domanick Davis and Vernard Morency at halfback and the team moving towards the 4-3 defensive scheme. **DeMeco Ryans** is an intelligent prospect who can line up at any of the linebacker positions. Offensive tackle **Eric Winston** and offensive guard **Charles Spencer** were expected to be early second-round selections, but slid until the third and will upgrade the play of the line in front of David Carr. Tight end **Owen Daniels** is a former quarterback who excels in the passing game. Halfback **Wali Lundy** did not have the standout senior season he was hoping for at Virginia and slipped into the sixth round. **David Anderson** is an overachiever the coaching staff will have a hard time cutting. The Texans picked up quality prospects from top to bottom.

GRADE: **B+**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Williams, Mario | DE | 6-7 | 295 | N.C. State |
| 2 | 1 | Ryans, DeMeco | LB | 6-1 | 235 | Alabama |
| 3 | 1 | Spencer, Charles | T | 6-5 | 351 | Pittsburgh |
| 3 | 2 | Winston, Eric | T | 6-6 | 311 | Miami (FL) |
| 4 | 1 | Daniels, Owen | TE | 6-3 | 243 | Wisconsin |
| 6 | 1 | Lundy, Wali | RB | 5-11 | 213 | Virginia |
| 7 | 43 | Anderson, David | WR | 5-10 | 193 | Colorado State |

## HE SAID IT:

**You win championships with defensive players, and that is exactly what is going to happen. I'm going to come in, I'm going to play and I'm going to be productive. I'm going to be an impact player immediately, and I'm going to win over fans regardless.**

*—No. 1 pick Mario Williams on playing for the Texans*

## 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 1** vs. Philadelphia | SEPT. 10 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 2** @ Indianapolis | SEPT. 17 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 3** vs. Washington | SEPT. 24 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 4** vs. Miami | OCT. 1 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 5** *OPEN DATE* | | |
| **WEEK 6** @ Dallas | OCT. 15 | 1:00 |

★ **MUST-SEE GAME** ★

*Just the second intra-state battle between the Texans and Cowboys. Beginning with this game, the Texans will play six road games in eight weeks.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 7** vs. Jacksonville | OCT. 22 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 8** @ Tennessee | OCT. 29 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 9** @ New York Giants | NOV. 5 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 10** @ Jacksonville | NOV. 12 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 11** vs. Buffalo | NOV. 19 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 12** @ New York Jets | NOV. 26 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 13** @ Oakland | DEC. 3 | 4:05 |
| **WEEK 14** vs. Tennessee | DEC. 10 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 15** @ New England | DEC. 17 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 16** vs. Indianapolis | DEC. 24 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 17** vs. Cleveland | DEC. 31 | 1:00 |

SCORE

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | L | 7-22 | at Buffalo |
| 09/18 | L | 7-27 | Pittsburgh |
| 10/02 | L | 10-16 | at Cincinnati |
| 10/09 | L | 20-34 | Tennessee |
| 10/16 | L | 10-42 | at Seattle |
| 10/23 | L | 20-38 | Indianapolis |
| 10/30 | W | 19-16 | Cleveland |
| 11/06 | L | 14-21 | at Jacksonville |
| 11/13 | L | 17-31 | at Indianapolis |
| 11/20 | L | 17-45 | Kansas City |
| 11/27 | L | 27-33 | St. Louis |
| 12/04 | L | 15-16 | at Baltimore |
| 12/11 | L | 10-13 | at Tennessee |
| 12/18 | W | 30-19 | Arizona |
| 12/24 | L | 20-38 | Jacksonville |
| 01/01 | L | 17-20 | at San Francisco |

WON **2**, LOST **14**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D. Davis | 230 | 976 | 4.2 | 44 | 2 |
| Wells | 90 | 325 | 3.6 | 14t | 4 |
| Carr | 56 | 308 | 5.5 | 20 | 1 |
| Morency | 46 | 184 | 4.0 | 25t | 2 |
| Gaffney | 4 | 13 | 3.3 | 10 | 0 |
| A. Johnson | 6 | 10 | 1.7 | 5 | 0 |
| K. Brown | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4 | 0 |
| Stanley | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Banks | 2 | -2 | -1.0 | -1 | 0 |
| Bradford | 1 | -2 | -2.0 | -2 | 0 |
| **Texans** | **437** | **1816** | **4.2** | **44** | **9** |
| **Opponents** | **506** | **2303** | **4.6** | **49** | **21** |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Johnson | 63 | 688 | 10.9 | 53t | 2 |
| Gaffney | 55 | 492 | 8.9 | 29 | 2 |
| D. Davis | 39 | 337 | 8.6 | 33 | 4 |
| Bradford | 34 | 436 | 12.8 | 50t | 5 |
| Rivers | 24 | 168 | 7.0 | 20 | 0 |
| Wells | 22 | 179 | 8.1 | 20 | 0 |
| Morency | 10 | 87 | 8.7 | 16 | 0 |
| Armstrong | 9 | 115 | 12.8 | 28 | 0 |
| Mathis | 5 | 65 | 13.0 | 34t | 1 |
| Morgan | 4 | 42 | 10.5 | 14 | 0 |
| Bruener | 2 | 22 | 11.0 | 19 | 0 |
| Murphy | 2 | 26 | 13.0 | 14 | 0 |
| Norris | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4t | 1 |
| **Texans** | **270** | **2661** | **9.9** | **53t** | **15** |
| **Opponents** | **304** | **3727** | **12.3** | **56t** | **24** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Carr | 423 | 256 | 2488 | 14 | 11 |
| Banks | 25 | 14 | 173 | 1 | 2 |
| Davis | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Texans** | **449** | **270** | **2661** | **15** | **13** |
| **Opponents** | **469** | **304** | **3727** | **24** | **7** |

**SACKS**

Orr 7, Peek 6, Babin 4, Payne 4, Polk 3.5, Greenwood 2, Smith 1.5, C. Anderson 1, DeLoach 1, T. Johnson 1, Malone 1, McKenzie 1, Robinson 1, Simmons 1, G. Walker 1, Wong 1

**Texans 37, Opponents 68**

**DOMANICK DAVIS**, RB

MIKE EHRMANN / WIRE IMAGE.COM

that his play picks up," Kubiak says of Carr. "We told him that we're not going to blame anybody for what happened here or there or why he got sacked so many times. If anything, he's going to take even more responsibility from that standpoint. We want him to really shoulder his load. We're not going to point any fingers."

Kubiak compares Carr's situation in Houston to that of Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer, who experienced playing for a losing team as his career began in Arizona. Plummer went to Denver, enjoyed greater success, and his confidence and leadership abilities rose. The plan is to help Carr in a similar way.

The Houston offense was out of sync in 2005. The offseason plan to switch to three-step quarterback drops was scratched in the preseason. The Texans then went back to five- and seven-step drops. Offensive Coordinator Chris Palmer was fired at midseason, and the promotion of Offensive Line Coach Joe Pendry to coordinator only made things worse.

The Texans did draft a pair of offensive-line prospects with the 65th and 66th overall picks at the top of the third round. They took Pittsburgh's 351-pound Charles Spencer and Miami's Eric Winston, a solid tackle who could supplant either Chester Pitts or Zach Wiegert.

In showing their confidence in Carr, the Texans passed on home-state quarterback hero Vince Young of the national champion Texas Longhorns. Houston also pulled the biggest draft surprise by not choosing Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush of Southern Cal with the first overall pick.

Passing on Bush also gives Domanick Davis a vote of confidence. With 39 receptions, 976 rushing yards and six touchdowns in 2005,

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Texans)*

"I've always been a David Carr fan. I don't think anybody realizes how good he can be with the scenario involving their offensive line and all the sacks.

"They've added some good solid players around him. They're bringing in a new system that's quarterback friendly, and I think [Coach] Gary Kubiak and [Offensive Coordinator] Mike Sherman will have a big influence on Carr."

"They run the football well. They'll take some shots down field. When you played against them, even last year when they struggled, you never got the feeling that they were really out of the game."

Davis continued to be productive, even on a bad offense. He was coming off consecutive 1,000-yard rushing seasons.

Instead of Bush, the Texans signed and then drafted N.C. State defensive end Mario Williams at No. 1 overall. Twenty of his 55 tackles in 2005 were for loss, not to mention his 13 sacks. At 6-7 and 295 pounds, Williams might have been the most NFL-ready player available in the draft. The Texans took heat for not picking Bush.

Williams will give the Texans a pair of bookends on the line in their new 4-3 alignment. They abandoned Capers' 3-4 defense that the Texan players didn't like. Capers might have been loyal to a fault to former Defensive Coordinator Vic Fangio.

Players complained that Fangio's complicated schemes forced them to think too much and play too little. It showed. They were 31st in yards allowed and last in rush defense.

In addition to taking Williams, the Texans signed former Baltimore Ravens defensive end Anthony Weaver early on in free agency. Weaver, despite battling a toe injury that forced him to miss six games, had 46 total tackles and two sacks for the Ravens last season. He will be just 26 years old when the season opens.

There is a lot of depth on the line now. Two former outside linebackers in the 3-4, Antwan Peek and Jason Babin, will be moved to defensive end and should provide plenty of pass-rush firepower. Houston added another strong defensive player in the second round by taking Alabama linebacker DeMeco Ryans, who could start immediately.

In addition to Carr, Kubiak wants to light a fire under underachieving cornerback Phillip Buchanon. Houston gave up second- and third-round picks to acquire Buchanon from the Raiders in April 2004, and he's fallen behind Dunta Robinson and DeMarcus Faggins at cornerback.

"I know he's a first-round pick. I know in Denver, we loved him when he came out," Kubiak says of Buchanon. "He's also a talented returner. If I'm not mistaken, he's in the last year of his contract with us. It's a big year for him as a football player. We've got to get his best effort and expect him to do that."

That could be said of the whole team, from Kubiak's point of view.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Eric Moulds**, WR (trade, BUF)
- **Jameel Cook**, RB (TB)
- **Sage Rosenfels**, QB (MIA)
- **Anthony Weaver**, DE (BAL)
- **Kevin Walter**, WR (CIN)
- **Jeb Putzier**, TE (DEN)
- **Sam Cowart**, LB (MIN)
- **Mike Flanagan**, OL (GB)
- **N.D. Kalu**, DE (PHI)
- **Antowain Smith**, RB (NO)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Jabar Gaffney**, WR (PHI)
- **Jason Bell**, CB (NYG)
- **Milford Brown**, OG (ARI)
- **Corey Bradford**, WR (DET)
- **Marcus Coleman**, DB (DAL)
- **Tony Hollings**, RB (CHI)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 253.3 | 30 |
| Rushing | 113.5 | 15 |
| Passing | 139.8 | 30 |
| Scoring | 260 | 26t |
| Punt Returns | 7.4 | 22 |
| Kick Returns | 25.9 | 2 |
| Red Zone TD % | 43.2 | 25 |
| Total Defense | 364.0 | 31 |
| Against Rush | 143.9 | 32 |
| Against Pass | 220.1 | 24 |
| Points Allowed | 431 | 32 |
| Interceptions | 7 | 31 |
| Sacks | 37 | 14t |
| Turnover Diff. | -8 | 25t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 243 | 89 | 142 | 12 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | PG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 37 | 164 | 16 | 17 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 15 | 2 | 0 |

## TEXANS ROSTER

**Gary Kubiak, head coach**; Mike Sherman, asst. head coach/off.; **Troy Calhoun**, off. coord./quarterbacks; **Richard Smith**, def. coord.; **Joe Marciano**, special teams coord.; **Martin Bayless**, asst. def. backs; **John Benton**, off. line; **Chick Harris**, running backs; **Jon Hoke**, def. backs; **Johnny Holland**, linebackers; **Bob Karmelowicz**, def. line; **Brian Pariani**, tight ends; **Kyle Shanahan**, wide receivers

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | Carr, David | QB | 6-3 | 220 | 07/21/1979 | 4 | Fresno State |
| 15 | Ragone, Dave | QB | 6-3 | 225 | 10/03/1979 | 1 | Louisville |
| 18 | Rosenfels, Sage | QB | 6-4 | 225 | 03/06/1978 | 4 | Iowa State |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 58 | Flanagan, Mike | C | 6-5 | 301 | 11/10/1973 | 8 | UCLA |
| 63 | Hodgdon, Drew | C | 6-3 | 296 | 11/15/1981 | 1 | Arizona State |
| 62 | Loverne, David | G | 6-3 | 299 | 05/22/1976 | 5 | San Jose State |
| 76 | McKinney, Steve | C | 6-4 | 302 | 10/15/1975 | 8 | Texas A&M |
| 48 | Pittman, Bryan | C | 6-3 | 275 | 01/20/1977 | 3 | Washington |
| 69 | Pitts, Chester | G | 6-4 | 329 | 06/26/1979 | 4 | San Diego State |
| 71 | Wade, Todd | T | 6-8 | 317 | 10/30/1976 | 6 | Mississippi |
| 78 | Wand, Seth | T | 6-7 | 330 | 08/06/1979 | 3 | NW Missouri St. |
| 70 | Weary, Fred | G | 6-4 | 308 | 09/30/1977 | 4 | Tennessee |
| 72 | Wiegert, Zach | G | 6-5 | 305 | 08/16/1972 | 11 | Nebraska |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 43 | Cook, Jameel | RB | 5-10 | 237 | 02/08/1979 | 5 | Illinois |
| 37 | Davis, Domanick | RB | 5-9 | 221 | 10/01/1980 | 3 | LSU |
| 34 | Morency, Vernand | RB | 5-9 | 212 | 02/04/1980 | 1 | Oklahoma State |
| 32 | Wells, Jonathan | RB | 6-1 | 245 | 07/21/1979 | 4 | Ohio State |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 88 | Armstrong, Derick | WR | 6-2 | 206 | 04/02/1979 | 3 | Ark.-Monticello |
| 87 | Bruener, Mark | TE | 6-4 | 258 | 09/16/1972 | 11 | Washington |
| 86 | Doering, Chris | WR | 6-4 | 201 | 05/19/1973 | 6 | Florida |
| 49 | Halterman, Aaron | TE | 6-4 | 260 | 03/31/1982 | 0 | Indiana |
| 80 | Johnson, Andre | WR | 6-3 | 219 | 07/11/1981 | 3 | Miami (FL) |
| 13 | Mathis, Jerome | WR | 5-11 | 172 | 07/26/1983 | 1 | Hampton |
| 11 | Morgan, Donovan | WR | 6-2 | 187 | 07/29/1982 | 1 | La.-Lafayette |
| 84 | Moulds, Eric | WR | 6-2 | 210 | 07/17/1973 | 10 | Mississippi State |
| 79 | Murphy, Matt | TE | 6-5 | 268 | 02/23/1980 | 4 | Maryland |
| 89 | Putzier, Jeb | TE | 6-4 | 256 | 01/20/1979 | 4 | Boise State |
| 19 | Schifino, Jake | WR | 6-1 | 201 | 11/15/1979 | 2 | Akron |
| 17 | Starling, Kendrick | WR | 6-0 | 193 | 12/27/1979 | 1 | Auburn |
| 82 | Steele, Ben | TE | 6-5 | 260 | 05/27/1978 | 2 | Mesa State |
| 85 | Walter, Kevin | WR | 6-3 | 214 | 08/04/1981 | 3 | Eastern Michigan |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 97 | Davis, Jason | DE | 6-3 | 290 | 05/12/1980 | 0 | West Virginia |
| 79 | Harris, Elliott | DT | 6-3 | 285 | 10/29/1981 | 0 | Arkansas |
| 75 | Johnson, Travis | DE | 6-3 | 303 | 04/26/1982 | 1 | Florida State |
| 94 | Kalu, N.D. | DE | 6-3 | 265 | 08/03/1975 | 8 | Rice |
| 97 | Malone, Alfred | DT | 6-5 | 308 | 02/21/1982 | 1 | Troy |
| 91 | Payne, Seth | DT | 6-4 | 315 | 02/12/1975 | 9 | Cornell |
| 99 | Smith, Robaire | DE | 6-4 | 328 | 11/15/1977 | 6 | Michigan State |
| 92 | Weaver, Anthony | DE | 6-3 | 280 | 07/28/1980 | 4 | Notre Dame |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 24 | Brown, C.C. | S | 6-0 | 202 | 01/27/1983 | 1 | La.-Lafayette |
| 31 | Buchanon, Phillip | CB | 5-10 | 185 | 09/19/1980 | 4 | Miami (FL) |
| 40 | Curtis, Kevin | S | 6-2 | 212 | 07/28/1980 | 0 | Texas Tech |
| 26 | Earl, Glenn | S | 6-1 | 215 | 06/10/1981 | 2 | Notre Dame |
| 38 | Faggins, DeMarcus | CB | 5-10 | 180 | 06/13/1979 | 4 | Kansas State |
| 41 | Floyd, Anthony | CB | 5-10 | 202 | 02/01/1981 | 2 | Louisville |
| 20 | Lord, Jammal | S | 6-2 | 220 | 01/10/1981 | 1 | Nebraska |
| 28 | McKenzie, Chris | CB | 5-8 | 182 | 03/17/1982 | 1 | Arizona State |
| 23 | Robinson, Dunta | CB | 5-10 | 174 | 04/11/1982 | 2 | South Carolina |
| 21 | Sanders, Lewis | CB | 6-1 | 210 | 06/22/1978 | 5 | Maryland |
| 30 | Simmons, Jason | S | 5-9 | 199 | 03/30/1976 | 8 | Arizona State |
| 42 | Stone, Michael | S | 6-0 | 201 | 02/13/1978 | 4 | Memphis |
| 22 | Walker, Ramon | S | 6-0 | 212 | 11/08/1979 | 3 | Pittsburgh |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 50 | Anderson, Charlie | LB | 6-4 | 243 | 12/08/1981 | 2 | Mississippi |
| 93 | Babin, Jason | LB | 6-2 | 259 | 05/24/1980 | 2 | Western Michigan |
| 57 | Cowart, Sam | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 02/26/1975 | 8 | Florida State |
| 54 | Evans, Troy | LB | 6-1 | 237 | 12/03/1977 | 4 | Cincinnati |
| 56 | Greenwood, Morlon | LB | 6-0 | 238 | 07/17/1978 | 5 | Syracuse |
| 53 | Orr, Shantee | LB | 6-0 | 241 | 05/28/1981 | 3 | Michigan |
| 98 | Peek, Antwan | LB | 6-3 | 238 | 10/29/1979 | 3 | Cincinnati |
| 55 | Pettway, Kenneth | LB | 6-4 | 255 | 11/13/1982 | 0 | Grambling State |
| 51 | Polk, DaShon | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 03/13/1977 | 6 | Arizona |
| 96 | Rainer, Wali | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 04/19/1977 | 7 | Virginia |
| 58 | Torrey, Andre | LB | 6-4 | 245 | 01/28/1982 | 0 | Arizona |
| 52 | Wong, Kailee | LB | 6-2 | 246 | 05/23/1976 | 8 | Stanford |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 3 | Brown, Kris | K | 5-11 | 205 | 12/23/1976 | 7 | Nebraska |
| 7 | Stanley, Chad | P | 6-3 | 216 | 01/29/1976 | 7 | Stephen F. Austin |

COURTESY NFL

2005 RECORD: 4-12 www.titansonline.com

# TENNESSEE TITANS

AFC SOUTH #4

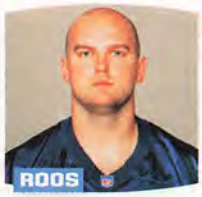
THE COLISEUM
CAPACITY: 68,798 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 615-565-4200

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 5 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 3 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 2 |
| LINEBACKERS | 3 |
| SECONDARY | 1 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 3 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Billy Volek | LE | Kyle Vanden Bosch | P | Craig Hentrich |
| FB | Troy Fleming | LT | Randy Starks | PR | Adam Jones |
| RB | Chris Brown | RT | Albert Haynesworth | H | Rob Bironas |
| LT | Michael Roos | RE | Travis LaBoy | KR | Adam Jones |
| LG | Zach Pillar | LLB | David Thornton | | |
| C | Kevin Mawae | MLB | Peter Sirmon | | |
| RG | Benji Olson | RLB | Keith Bulluck | | |
| RT | David Stewart | LCB | Reynaldo Hill | | |
| TE | Erron Kinney | RCB | Adam Jones | | |
| WR | David Givens | SS | Chris Hope | | |
| WR | Drew Bennett | FS | Lamont Thompson | | |




**ON THE RISE**

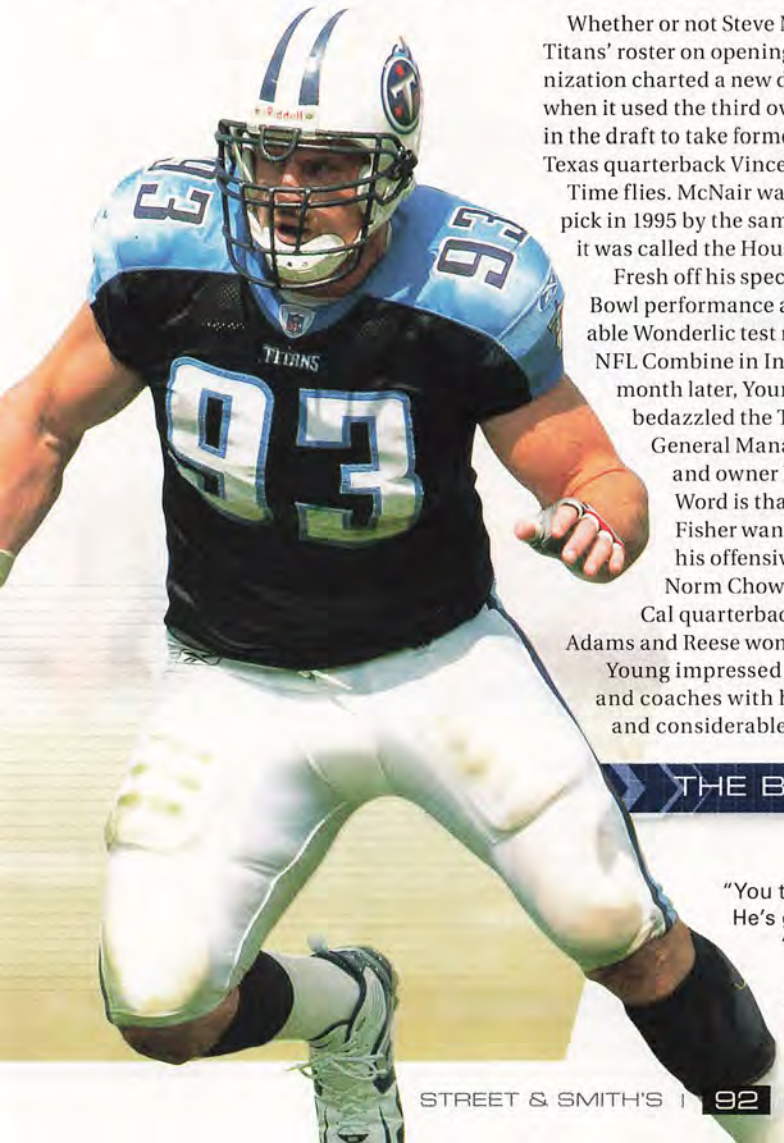
**MICHAEL ROOS**
offensive tackle
After a solid rookie year, he has engendered a great deal of confidence.

**FADING FAST**

**BENJI OLSON**
offensive guard
Though signed to a new four-year deal, he is starting to show the signs of eight tough years in the league.

# Young and restless

Despite Offensive Coordinator Norm Chow's connection to Matt Leinart, the Titans are strident in their belief that future success lies in the arm of the former University of Texas quarterback.



Whether or not Steve McNair is on the Titans' roster on opening day, the organization charted a new direction April 29 when it used the third overall selection in the draft to take former University of Texas quarterback Vince Young.

Time flies. McNair was the third overall pick in 1995 by the same franchise when it was called the Houston Oilers.

Fresh off his spectacular Rose Bowl performance and questionable Wonderlic test result at the NFL Combine in Indianapolis a month later, Young nonetheless bedazzled the Titans—at least General Manager Floyd Reese and owner Bud Adams. Word is that Coach Jeff Fisher wanted to reunite his offensive coordinator, Norm Chow, with Southern Cal quarterback Matt Leinart. Adams and Reese won out.

Young impressed teammates and coaches with his work ethic and considerable skills at the team's rookie camp the first weekend of May. McNair had called Young on April 30—Day Two of the NFL Draft—to congratulate him. Later that same week, the Titans had given McNair permission to talk to the Baltimore Ravens to work out a deal in case a trade could be arranged. As of mid-May, the Ravens and McNair were reportedly close to reaching an agreement. If nothing gets worked out, Tennessee still has the luxury of waiting until June or July to make a decision on McNair.

So McNair was still a Titan at press time, part of a crowded quarterback position that included Young and Billy Volek.

Fisher was the one who brought McNair along slowly, helping him develop into a productive NFL quarterback. The plan is to nurture Young as well. So it was Volek who was No. 1 on the depth chart as the summer began.

Volek knows that Young is the Titans' quarterback of the future. Volek, who had 18 touchdowns and an 87.1 passer rating in 10 games (eight starts) in 2004, compares his situation in Tennessee to that faced by Drew Brees in San Diego.

"I look at Drew, when the Chargers got Philip Rivers," Volek told reporters during the first week of May. "Brees was able to keep the job, be productive and started for two years. Then he went and got a deal with New Orleans."

## THE BOOK ON ... KYLE VANDEN BOSCH

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"You talk about a guy who can impact a game in rushing the passer. He's got a great motor and is great coming off the edge. ...

"Vanden Bosch is a player the entire defense feeds off. ...

"Tennessee was smart to re-sign this guy. He will give them everything he's got."

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TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; CHRIS BERNACCHI / SPORTPICS

### FACT

Tennessee tight ends Erron Kinney, Ben Troupe, Bo Scaife and Gregg Guenther caught 149 passes in 2005. Only the 1984 San Diego Chargers (163) had more receptions by tight ends in one season.

### STAT

The Titans ran for 1,525 yards, their fewest yards rushing in a single season since 1991, when they rushed for 1,366.

### LOOK IT UP

The Titans started six rookies against the Cleveland Browns on Nov. 6, the most rookies the franchise has started in a game since Dec. 18, 1983, when the Houston Oilers also started six rookies.

### 5-YEAR WINS

### TITANS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. JEFF FISHER (12 YEARS) — **Record with Titans:** 102-89
2. BUM PHILLIPS (6 YEARS) — **Record with Titans:** 59-38
3. JACK PARDEE (5 YEARS) — **Record with Titans:** 44-35

### THE COUNT

**1** Number of road wins for the Titans last year, the fewest since 1994 when they had zero.

**4.5** Yards per punt return by opponents, the fewest in the league.

**7** Punt returns of 20 or more yards, the most in the NFL.

Volek has been productive. He made his 10th career start last October—his only one of the season—and threw for 198 yards. His 2,789 passing yards are the most of any quarterback in his first 10 starts since the 1970 NFL/AFL merger.

While Volek wants a chance to establish himself as an NFL starter, Fisher will be looking to rebound from his worst full-season record as an NFL coach. His Titans, the youngest team in the NFL, were 4-12. That record followed on the heels of a 5-11 mark in 2004.

"We've been through back-to-back very difficult years," says Fisher, who won 56 regular-season games from 1999 to 2003. "It keeps you going, it recharges you, but you don't have many opportunities."

Fisher is heading into the last season of his contract. The club has an option for 2007. He might need to produce results in the neighborhood of 7-9 and get significant improvement in young players to keep his job.

The struggles of last season were almost guaranteed. In a salary cap-driven crisis the previous offseason, the Titans purged their roster of high-priced veterans such as wide receiver Derrick Mason, cornerback Samari Rolle, kicker Joe Nedney and defensive end Kevin Carter.

The personnel losses this offseason have been far less significant—even counting McNair's iffy status—and the Titans actually added some solid veteran players. They signed free agent David Givens to bolster an underwhelming group at wide receiver. Drew Bennett had 58 receptions for 738 yards and four touchdowns, down from his career highs (80-1,247-11) in 2004. Tyrone Calico was a disappointment. Givens, who had 59 catches for 738 yards and two touchdowns at New England last season, will be given the opportunity to become the No. 1 target.

## NFL DRAFT 2006 — DRAFT REPORT

In one of the most difficult picks of the first round, the Titans had to choose between **Vince Young** and Matt Leinart. While Young offers greater potential and upside, the former Heisman Trophy winner is much more NFL-ready with his mechanics and ability to read defenses. Once considered a top-10 talent, **LenDale White** slipped all the way to No. 45 overall due to conditioning and character concerns. He should prove to be a second-round steal. **Calvin Lowry** isn't flashy, but has the ability to start on the next level. **Stephen Tulloch** is an undersized linebacker who was extremely productive last season at N.C. State. **Terna Nande** is an OLB/S 'tweener who should be a special-teams terror. **Jesse Mahelona** was a disruptive inside force as a junior, but struggled with injuries last year. **Jonathan Orr** has outstanding speed and potential, but has yet to put it all together on game day. **Cortland Finnegan** will need to impress returning kicks to make the team. **Spencer Toone** is another addition to the Titans' rebuilt group of linebackers. **Quinton Ganther** is a big back who will struggle making the roster. The development of Young will define this draft in three years.

GRADE: **B-**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3 | Young, Vince | QB | 6-5 | 228 | Texas |
| 2 | 13 | White, LenDale | RB | 6-0 | 237 | USC |
| 4 | 5 | Lowry, Calvin | S | 5-11 | 197 | Penn State |
| 4 | 19 | Tulloch, Stephen | LB | 5-11 | 242 | North Carolina St. |
| 5 | 4 | Nande, Terna | LB | 6-0 | 232 | Miami (OH) |
| 5 | 36 | Mahelona, Jesse | DT | 6-1 | 310 | Tennessee |
| 6 | 3 | Orr, Jonathan | WR | 6-2 | 197 | Wisconsin |
| 7 | 7 | Finnegan, Cortland | S | 5-9 | 177 | Samford |
| 7 | 37 | Toone, Spencer | LB | 6-1 | 238 | Utah |
| 7 | 38 | Ganther, Quinton | RB | 5-9 | 219 | Utah |

### 2006 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. New York Jets — SEPT. 10 — 1:00
★ MUST-SEE GAME ★
*The Titans are a combined 9-23 the past two seasons and need every victory they can get, especially early in the schedule. They have a home opener against the New York Jets, a struggling team with a new coach that will be making its first visit to the Coliseum in Nashville. Tennessee is 21-5 against teams playing their first games in the Coliseum.*
SCORE

**WEEK 2** @ San Diego — SEPT. 17 — 4:15 — SCORE

**WEEK 3** @ Miami — SEPT. 24 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 4** vs. Dallas — OCT. 1 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 5** @ Indianapolis — OCT. 8 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 6** @ Washington — OCT. 15 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 7** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 8** vs. Houston — OCT. 29 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 9** @ Jacksonville — NOV. 5 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 10** vs. Baltimore — NOV. 12 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 11** @ Philadelphia — NOV. 19 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 12** vs. New York Giants — NOV. 26 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 13** vs. Indianapolis — DEC. 3 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 14** @ Houston — DEC. 10 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 15** vs. Jacksonville — DEC. 17 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 16** @ Buffalo — DEC. 24 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 17** vs. New England — DEC. 31 — 1:00 — SCORE

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | L | 7-34 | at Pittsburgh |
| 09/18 | W | 25-10 | Baltimore |
| 09/25 | L | 27-31 | at St. Louis |
| 10/02 | L | 10-31 | Indianapolis |
| 10/09 | W | 34-20 | at Houston |
| 10/16 | L | 23-31 | Cincinnati |
| 10/23 | L | 10-20 | at Arizona |
| 10/30 | L | 25-34 | Oakland |
| 11/06 | L | 14-20 | at Cleveland |
| 11/20 | L | 28-31 | Jacksonville |
| 11/27 | W | 33-22 | San Francisco |
| 12/04 | L | 3-35 | at Indianapolis |
| 12/11 | W | 13-10 | Houston |
| 12/18 | L | 24-28 | Seattle |
| 12/24 | L | 10-24 | at Miami |
| 01/01 | L | 13-40 | at Jacksonville |

WON **4**, LOST **12**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brown | 224 | 851 | 3.8 | 38t | 5 |
| Henry | 88 | 335 | 3.8 | 29 | 0 |
| McNair | 32 | 139 | 4.3 | 19 | 1 |
| Payton | 33 | 105 | 3.2 | 15 | 2 |
| Mauck | 7 | 39 | 5.6 | 12 | 0 |
| Nash | 6 | 32 | 5.3 | 8 | 0 |
| Roby | 2 | 16 | 8.0 | 11 | 0 |
| Bennett | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| Volek | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| B. Jones | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 |
| Wade | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 |
| Hentrich | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Titans** | **397** | **1525** | **3.8** | **38t** | **8** |
| **Opponents** | **449** | **1894** | **4.2** | **52** | **12** |

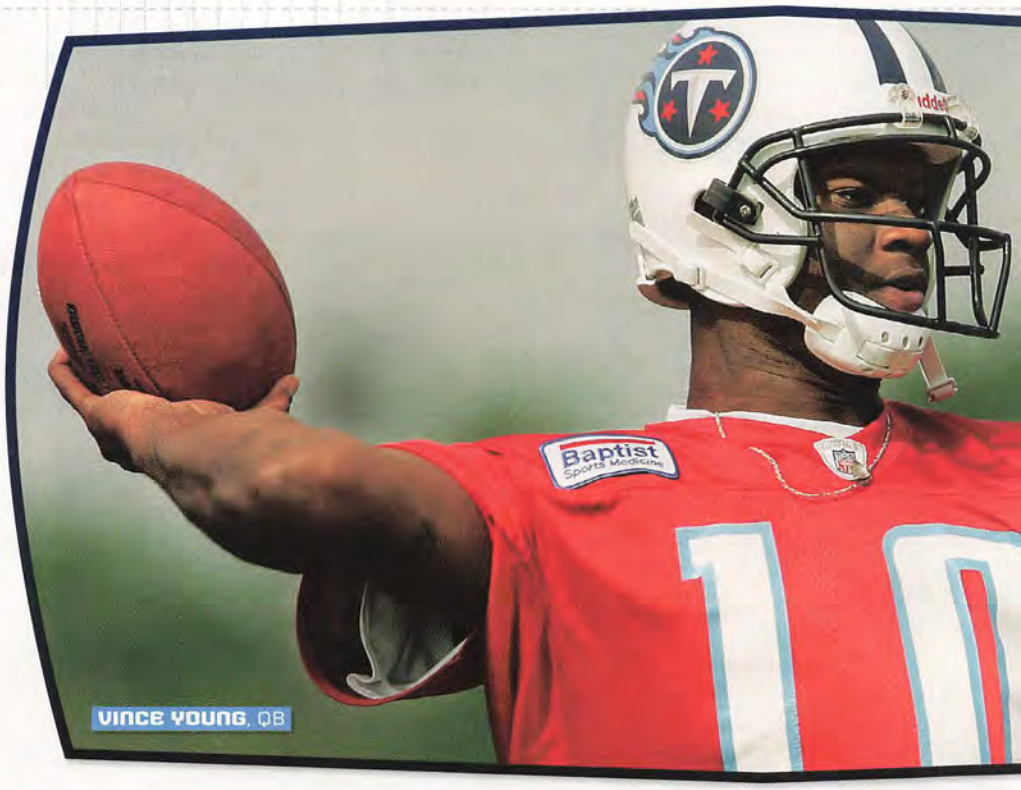
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bennett | 58 | 738 | 12.7 | 55t | 4 |
| Kinney | 55 | 543 | 9.9 | 27 | 2 |
| Troupe | 55 | 530 | 9.6 | 35 | 4 |
| Scaife | 37 | 273 | 7.4 | 19 | 2 |
| Brown | 25 | 327 | 13.1 | 57 | 2 |
| B. Jones | 23 | 299 | 13.0 | 38t | 2 |
| Calico | 22 | 191 | 8.7 | 18 | 0 |
| Roby | 21 | 289 | 13.8 | 32 | 1 |
| R. Williams | 21 | 299 | 14.2 | 50t | 2 |
| Henry | 13 | 117 | 9.0 | 42 | 0 |
| Fleming | 10 | 69 | 6.9 | 18 | 1 |
| Payton | 6 | 30 | 5.0 | 9 | 0 |
| Wade | 4 | 40 | 10.0 | 15 | 0 |
| Nash | 3 | 14 | 4.7 | 7 | 0 |
| Guenther | 2 | 13 | 6.5 | 8 | 0 |
| Nickey | 1 | 26 | 26.0 | 26 | 0 |
| Roos | 1 | 6 | 6.0 | 6 | 0 |
| Small | 1 | -7 | -7.0 | -7 | 0 |
| **Titans** | **358** | **3797** | **10.6** | **57** | **20** |
| **Opponents** | **296** | **3462** | **11.7** | **63t** | **33** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| McNair | 476 | 292 | 3161 | 16 | 11 |
| Volek | 88 | 50 | 474 | 4 | 2 |
| Mauck | 27 | 15 | 136 | 0 | 1 |
| Hentrich | 2 | 1 | 26 | 0 | 0 |
| Bennett | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Titans** | **594** | **358** | **3797** | **20** | **14** |
| **Opponents** | **470** | **296** | **3462** | **33** | **9** |

**SACKS**

Vanden Bosch 12.5, LaBoy 6.5, Bulluck 5, Long 3.5, Haynesworth 3, Starks 3, Sirmon 2.5, Odom 2, Schobel 1, Thompson 1, Clauss 0.5, Waddell 0.5

**Titans 41, Opponents 31**




VINCE YOUNG, QB

If Givens and Bennett can help reduce the pressure on each other, the Titans can rely less on their trio of solid receiving tight ends. Erron Kinney and Ben Troupe (55 receptions each) and Bo Scaife (37) were the team's second-, third- and fourth-leading receivers, respectively.

Givens comes from a place, New England, where the team concept dominates. He is being counted on to help restore some order and positive direction to a locker room that some insiders say Fisher lost control of in 2005. Some veterans grumbled that Fisher coddled first-round pick Adam "Pacman" Jones.

After the 2005 season, the Titans also signed center Kevin Mawae (Jets), safety Chris Hope (Steelers) and linebacker David Thornton (Colts)—all of whom are expected to start. Mawae will replace Justin Hartwig, who signed with the Panthers.

Fisher says Hope and Thornton will add an important element of speed to a Tennessee defense that was 29th in points allowed and 26th in yards permitted.

"We feel like Chris's athletic ability is going to allow him to do whatever we need him to do—cover the slot receiver or play around the line of scrimmage," Fisher says of Hope's six-year deal with the Titans.

The secondary is an area of concern. Hope will replace the departed Tank Williams. The Titans used a pair of rookie cornerbacks most of last season. Reynaldo Hill had a team-high three interceptions. Jones, whom Fisher pushed for in the 2005 draft, improved in coverage throughout the season but was a liability because of off-field legal scrapes and in-house tantrums.

For the Titans, who were part of the old, run-dominated AFC Central, the keys to returning to respectability and playoff contention will be their ability to run the football and stop the run.

In the final 2005 NFL statistics, the Titans were 22nd out of 32 teams in run defense. But just a few years ago, they finished No. 1 in run defense. During 2005, the Titans allowed eight 100-yard rushers, including one in each of the last five games. Seattle's Shaun Alexander and Miami's Ricky Williams

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Titans)*

"I think they added a couple of veteran players who should help right away. The wide receiver [David] Givens has made big plays in key situations. [Safety Chris] Hope is a young veteran who is a big hitter. And Kevin Mawae is one of the best centers in the league; he's a tough, physical son of a gun. ...

"They always have a good ground game, and [Chris] Brown gives them some long runs. I don't expect them to struggle to the extent they have in past couple of years. If [Billy] Volek has to play, they should be OK."

(L TO R): ELSA / GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY NFL (2)

pounded the Titans, rushing for 172 yards each. Except for the addition of Thornton at linebacker, the Titans will return most of the same players in the front seven. The sense inside the organization is the problems against the run can be fixed with better fundamentals.

Once among the top running teams in the NFL, the Titans were 23rd last year. The run game let Fisher down. With running backs Chris Brown and Travis Henry working in tandem, the Titans did not get an individual 100-yard rushing game. Brown missed a lot of practice time and finished with just 851 yards. Henry missed four games because of an NFL suspension and two games because of injury.

So, with their second-round pick in the draft, the Titans took Southern Cal's big halfback, LenDale White. A top-15 pick coming out of the Rose Bowl, White fell to his old offensive coordinator at USC, Chow, and the Titans. He's expected to be a big back in the mold of former Titans great Eddie George.

"In this day and age, you're going to have multiple backs," Fisher says. "The days of the Walter [Payton] and Eddie George are over. You're not going to find a guy that has an [NFL] life span of nine or 10 years."

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **David Givens**, WR (NE)
- **Chris Hope**, DB (PIT)
- **Kevin Mawae**, C (NYJ)
- **David Thornton**, LB (IND)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Justin Hartwig**, C (CAR)
- **Rocky Boiman**, LB (DAL)
- **Tank Williams**, DB (MIN)
- **Brad Kassell**, LB (NYJ)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 320.1 | 17 |
| Rushing | 95.3 | 23 |
| Passing | 224.8 | 9 |
| Scoring | 299 | 21 |
| Punt Returns | 9.3 | 7 |
| Kick Returns | 24.2 | 5t |
| Red Zone TD % | 47.8 | 17t |
| Total Defense | 319.4 | 19 |
| Against Rush | 118.4 | 22 |
| Against Pass | 201.0 | 17 |
| Points Allowed | 421 | 29 |
| Interceptions | 9 | 30 |
| Sacks | 41 | 8t |
| Turnover Diff. | -6 | 20t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 279 | 72 | 191 | 16 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | PG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 46 | 194 | 22 | 14 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 20 | 1 | 4 |

## TITANS ROSTER

**Jeff Fisher, head coach**; **Norm Chow**, off. coord.; **Jim Schwartz**, def. coord.; **Chuck Cecil**, safeties/nickelbacks; **Marty Galbraith**, asst. special teams; **Craig Johnson**, quarterbacks; **Alan Lowry**, special teams; **Dave McGinnis**, asst. head coach/linebackers; **Mike Munchak**, off. line; **Sherman Smith**, running backs; **Ray Sherman**, wide receivers; **Jim Washburn**, def. line; **Everett Withers**, def. backs

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | Mauck, Matt | QB | 6-1 | 213 | 12/12/1979 | 1 | LSU |
| 7 | Volek, Billy | QB | 6-2 | 214 | 04/28/1976 | 4 | Fresno State |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 54 | Amano, Eugene | C | 6-3 | 310 | 08/01/1982 | 2 | SE Missouri State |
| 60 | Bell, Jacob | G | 6-4 | 295 | 03/02/1981 | 2 | Miami (OH) |
| 72 | Hopkins, Brad | T | 6-3 | 295 | 09/05/1970 | 13 | Illinois |
| 70 | Loper, Daniel | T | 6-6 | 320 | 01/15/1982 | 0 | Texas Tech |
| 68 | Mawae, Kevin | C | 6-4 | 289 | 01/23/1971 | 12 | LSU |
| 75 | Olson, Benji | G | 6-4 | 320 | 06/05/1975 | 8 | Washington |
| 69 | Piller, Zach | G | 6-5 | 315 | 05/02/1976 | 7 | Florida |
| 61 | Rodriguez, Joel | C | 6-3 | 289 | 06/27/1982 | 0 | Miami (FL) |
| 71 | Roos, Michael | T | 6-7 | 315 | 10/05/1982 | 1 | Eastern Washington |
| 76 | Stewart, David | T | 6-7 | 318 | 08/28/1982 | 0 | Mississippi State |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 29 | Brown, Chris | RB | 6-3 | 220 | 04/17/1981 | 3 | Colorado |
| 44 | Fleming, Troy | RB | 6-0 | 245 | 10/01/1980 | 2 | Tennessee |
| 20 | Henry, Travis | RB | 5-9 | 215 | 10/29/1978 | 5 | Tennessee |
| 42 | Nash, Damien | RB | 5-10 | 220 | 04/14/1982 | 1 | Missouri |
| 33 | Payton, Jarrett | RB | 6-0 | 220 | 12/26/1980 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 10 | Anderson, Jason | WR | 6-3 | 195 | 06/25/1982 | 0 | Wake Forest |
| 83 | Bennett, Drew | WR | 6-5 | 206 | 08/26/1978 | 5 | UCLA |
| 87 | Calico, Tyrone | WR | 6-4 | 220 | 11/09/1980 | 3 | Middle Tenn. St. |
| 89 | Givens, David | WR | 6-0 | 215 | 08/16/1980 | 4 | Notre Dame |
| 85 | Guenther, Gregg | TE | 6-8 | 255 | 01/29/1982 | 1 | USC |
| 81 | Jones, Brandon | WR | 6-1 | 212 | 10/06/1982 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| 88 | Kinney, Erron | TE | 6-6 | 275 | 07/28/1977 | 6 | Florida |
| 82 | Roby, Courtney | WR | 6-0 | 189 | 01/10/1983 | 1 | Indiana |
| 80 | Scaife, Bo | TE | 6-3 | 249 | 01/06/1981 | 1 | Texas |
| 18 | Small, O.J. | WR | 6-1 | 223 | 08/18/1982 | 1 | Florida |
| 16 | Thomas, Sloan | WR | 6-1 | 203 | 12/22/1981 | 1 | Texas |
| 84 | Troupe, Ben | TE | 6-4 | 270 | 09/01/1982 | 2 | Florida |
| 19 | Wade, Bobby | WR | 5-10 | 186 | 02/25/1981 | 3 | Arizona |
| 86 | Williams, Roydell | WR | 6-0 | 187 | 03/14/1981 | 1 | Tulane |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 96 | Clauss, Jared | DT | 6-4 | 290 | 04/07/1981 | 2 | Iowa |
| 92 | Haynesworth, Albert | DT | 6-6 | 320 | 06/17/1981 | 4 | Tennessee |
| 91 | LaBoy, Travis | DE | 6-3 | 260 | 08/10/1981 | 2 | Hawaii |
| 99 | Long, Rien | DT | 6-6 | 300 | 08/07/1981 | 3 | Washington State |
| 98 | Odom, Antwan | DE | 6-4 | 274 | 09/24/1981 | 2 | Alabama |
| 95 | Schobel, Bo | DE | 6-5 | 264 | 03/24/1981 | 2 | TCU |
| 90 | Starks, Randy | DT | 6-3 | 312 | 12/14/1983 | 2 | Maryland |
| 93 | Vanden Bosch, Kyle | DE | 6-4 | 278 | 11/17/1978 | 4 | Nebraska |
| 79 | White, Marcus | DT | 6-5 | 303 | 11/13/1981 | 0 | Murray State |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 22 | Fuller, Vincent | S | 6-1 | 190 | 08/03/1982 | 1 | Virginia Tech |
| 30 | Gardner, Rich | CB | 5-10 | 194 | 02/01/1981 | 2 | Penn State |
| 41 | Harris, Antoine | CB | 5-10 | 190 | 04/08/1982 | 0 | Louisville |
| 21 | Hill, Reynaldo | CB | 5-11 | 185 | 08/28/1982 | 1 | Florida |
| 24 | Hope, Chris | S | 5-11 | 206 | 09/29/1980 | 4 | Florida State |
| 32 | Jones, Adam | CB | 5-10 | 185 | 09/30/1983 | 1 | West Virginia |
| 23 | Nickey, Donnie | S | 6-3 | 210 | 04/25/1980 | 3 | Ohio State |
| 31 | Randall, Marcus | S | 6-2 | 219 | 03/14/1982 | 1 | LSU |
| 40 | Sandy, Justin | S | 6-0 | 207 | 02/22/1982 | 2 | Northern Iowa |
| 28 | Thompson, Lamont | S | 6-1 | 220 | 07/30/1978 | 4 | Washington State |
| 36 | Waddell, Michael | CB | 5-10 | 180 | 01/09/1981 | 2 | North Carolina |
| 26 | Woolfolk, Andre | CB | 6-2 | 197 | 01/26/1980 | 3 | Oklahoma |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 58 | Amato, Ken | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 05/18/1977 | 3 | Montana State |
| 53 | Bulluck, Keith | LB | 6-3 | 235 | 04/04/1977 | 6 | Syracuse |
| 52 | Newberry, Jared | LB | 6-1 | 238 | 11/11/1981 | 0 | Stanford |
| 51 | Reynolds, Robert | LB | 6-3 | 247 | 05/20/1981 | 2 | Ohio State |
| 59 | Sirmon, Peter | LB | 6-2 | 237 | 02/18/1977 | 5 | Oregon |
| 56 | Spencer, Cody | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 06/01/1981 | 2 | North Texas |
| 50 | Thornton, David | LB | 6-2 | 230 | 11/01/1978 | 4 | North Carolina |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 2 | Bironas, Rob | K | 6-0 | 205 | 01/29/1978 | 1 | Georgia Southern |
| 15 | Hentrich, Craig | P | 6-3 | 213 | 05/18/1971 | 12 | Notre Dame |

# AFC WEST

## Denver appears primed to be the first team to repeat in a long while in dreamy West

By **Larry Weisman** *USA Today*

**PREDICTED** ORDER OF FINISH:


1 p.98

2 p.102

3 p.106

4 p.110


Ah, the West. Where dreams dwarf reality and the truly outsized thing is the imagination.

Sure, the AFC West has storied rivalries and bitter competition. But is it actually any good?

First, the long view. The Denver Broncos won back-to-back Super Bowls and were truly dominating throughout the 1997 and '98 seasons. They've won one playoff game since that final Super Bowl triumph, which, not coincidentally, marked John Elway's exit from the heights.

Those were the first Super Bowls the Broncos won after three other defeats, none of which were decided by single-digit margins. Sweet as they might have been, they've not been duplicated.

And what about the other mugs in this division? Sad, sad and sad.

The Oakland Raiders have as many slogans—Commitment to Excellence, Pride and Poise, We're Packing for L.A.—as NFL titles and they won their last one to conclude the 1983 season. Yeah, they reached the Super Bowl a couple years ago but they've put up a meager 13 victories in the three seasons since.

The Kansas City Chiefs managed to miss the playoffs last year while winning 10 games and they've qualified for the postseason once in the last eight years and haven't won a playoff game since the wild-card round that followed the '93 campaign. Boy, Super Bowl IV seems like a lifetime ago. Know why? It was. A person born on the day the Chiefs defeated the Minnesota Vikings 23-7 for the NFL title is old enough to run for president. Age requirement: 35.

And then there are the San Diego Chargers. Been to one Super Bowl. Got blown out. End of story.

The point? Well, something along the lines of these teams being legends in their own minds.

Not much has changed.

There's not any reason the Broncos should not be the best team in the AFC West again and they should be counted as Super Bowl contenders. True, the Broncos are getting a little elderly at receiver (Rod Smith is 36 and still the best they have) and the safeties might begin to age before December rolls around, but overall the Broncos can boast of a certain solidity that runs through every phrase of their game.

They will need to find out which was the anomaly—Jake Plummer's regular season or his playoff crackup against the Pittsburgh Steelers. They need to establish a new starter at running back. They must get some pressure from their defensive line. None of these questions is unanswerable.

The Chiefs try again with Herman Edwards taking over for Dick Vermeil and perhaps at last turning this defense into something that scares opponents and not the children of Missouri. The offense should look very much the same in terms of personnel, though Larry Johnson is now the starting running back and Priest Holmes could be on the outs. Defensively? Good luck. Even though the Chiefs at times seem better against the run, the master plumber couldn't fix the leaks in the secondary.

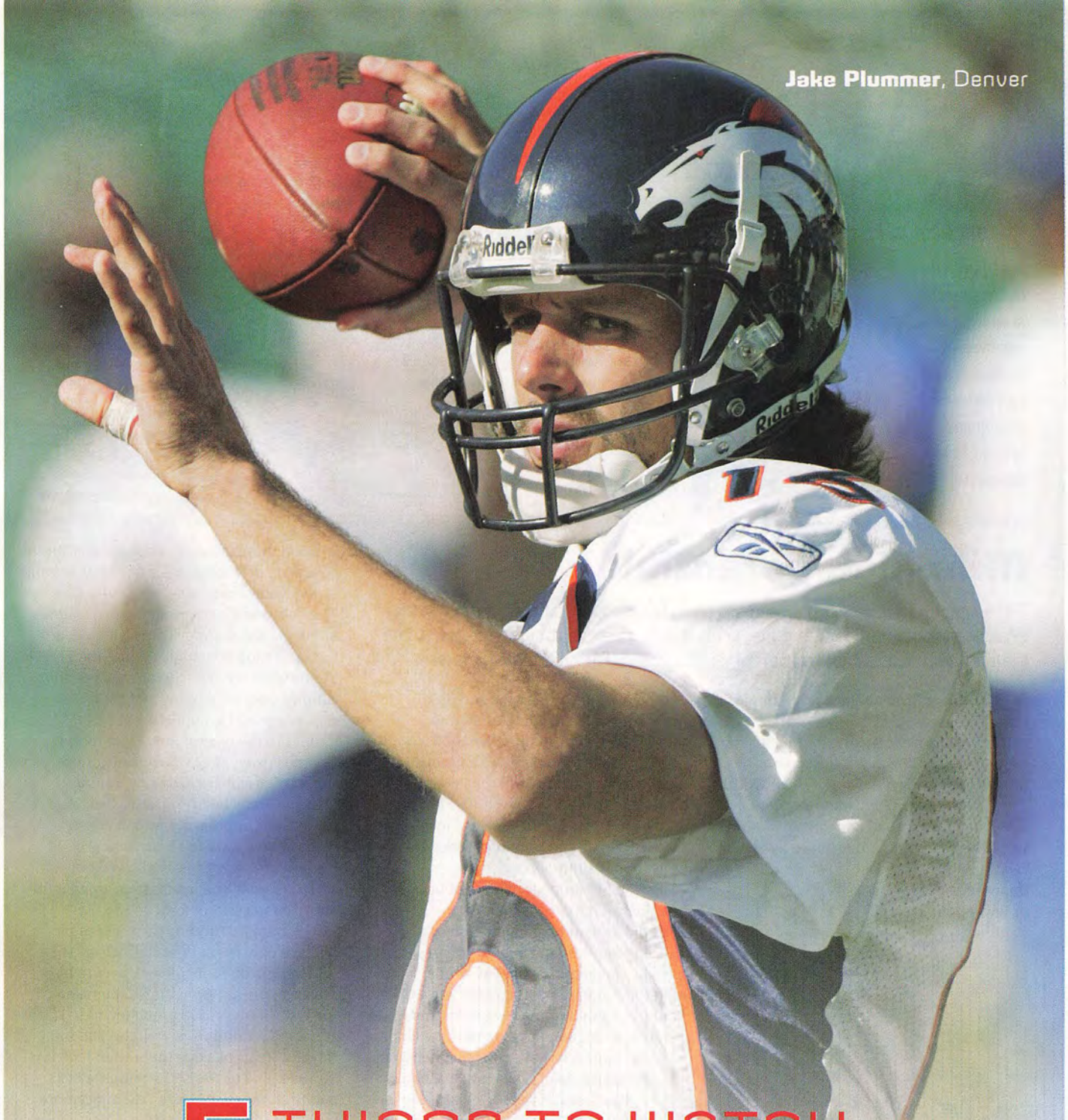
With a 4-12 season and Norv Turner's short and unhappy tenure rapidly fading, the Raiders will turn their attention to ruining Art Shell's life. Shell was serving in the NFL's front office and became the favored candidate to replace Turner after Ken Whisenhunt, Mike Martz and Bobby Petrino (called Bernard by owner Al Davis at a semi-strange news conference) either said no or were turned away. Davis then welcomed back Shell, whom he said he should never have fired in the first place.

Shell, Davis said, would bring back the old Oakland mentality. Which will be interesting, since his coaching tenure with the Raiders came while the club was in Los Angeles. So he'll be reaching back to his playing days, which ended in 1982 (also in L.A.) The closest thing Shell got to a housewarming gift was quarterback Aaron Brooks, jettisoned by the New Orleans Saints. A year only has 365 days, but imagine how long it is going to feel in Oakland.

Of the AFC West foursome, the Broncos are the least flawed. Coach Mike Shanahan has been in place forever and so has his system. The Broncos go plug-and-play at running back, so whether they start Ron Dayne or Tatum Bell is immaterial. One will be the change of pace, working behind an aggressive, well-coached line. Defensively, the Broncos routinely finish in the league's top five but they need to find a way to bring more heat on enemy passers. There's not a reason to think they won't win the division for a second consecutive year, which would be a change here. There has been a different AFC West champion each of the last four seasons.

If San Diego overcomes the change at quarterback and Philip Rivers keeps mistakes to a minimum, the Chargers can threaten as a wild card. The Chiefs should also be around the 10-win mark.

The Raiders? Keep those slogans coming, Al. That's all you've got you left.




ROB HOLT / SPORTPICS

# 5 THINGS TO WATCH

**1**

Al Davis hired Art Shell to restore a little of that Oakland spirit to a team with no core. Now, will Davis let Shell and a coaching staff of bizarre pedigree do its work?

**2**

San Diego gambled by letting Drew Brees leave as a free agent. Philip Rivers finally gets to start, but will Marty Schottenheimer be around to finish?

**3**

Denver traded for receiver Javon Walker rather than spend a high draft pick on a young one. Walker could eventually supplant Rod Smith as the Broncos' No. 1 receiver, but now the club has an issue with disgruntled Ashley Lelie. How this plays out bears watching.

**4**

Dick Vermeil never built a winning defense in Kansas City. Herman Edwards, who played and coached on that side of the ball, cannot fall into the same trap. Will the Chiefs improve a pass defense that ranked 30th last year?

**5**

Larry Johnson led the AFC in rushing with 1,750 yards but only started nine games, following an injury to Priest Holmes. He could have Eric Dickerson's record of 2,105 yards in his sights.

2005 RECORD: 13-3 | www.denverbroncos.com

# DENVER BRONCOS

AFC WEST #1

INVESCO FIELD AT MILE HIGH
CAPACITY: 76,125 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 720-258-3333

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 4 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 4 |
| RECEIVERS | 4 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| LINEBACKERS | 5 |
| SECONDARY | 3 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 5 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Jake Plummer | LE | Courtney Brown | P | Todd Sauerbrun |
| FB | Kyle Johnson | LT | Michael Myers | PR | Darrent Williams |
| RB | Tatum Bell | RT | Gerard Warren | K | Jason Elam |
| LT | Matt Lepsis | RE | John Engelberger | KR | Darrent Williams |
| LG | Ben Hamilton | LLB | D.J. Williams | | |
| C | Tom Nalen | MLB | Al Wilson | | |
| RG | Cooper Carlisle | RLB | Ian Gold | | |
| RT | George Foster | LCB | Champ Bailey | | |
| TE | Stephen Alexander | RCB | Darrent Williams | | |
| WR | Rod Smith | SS | Nick Ferguson | | |
| WR | Javon Walker | FS | John Lynch | | |

**ON THE RISE**

**TATUM BELL**
running back
With Mike Anderson gone, Bell will reap lots of rushing yardage.

**FADING FAST**

**TOM NALEN**
center
At 35, his lack of size can no longer be offset by aggressiveness and guile.

# Mile-high potential

The acquisiton of receiver Javon Walker from the Packers could be the missing piece that gets the talented Broncos to the Super Bowl this year.

The Denver Broncos got over a couple of humps last season.

They won a playoff game for the first time since John Elway left the stage as the Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XXXIII. They got the controlled, mature sort of performance they had hoped Jake Plummer would be capable of. They improved defensively, holding opponents to 10 or fewer points six times.

They cleared the humps and then were stopped with a mighty thump. They expected to go to Indianapolis to play the Colts for the AFC championship and instead were hosts to the Pittsburgh Steelers. That didn't go well. The Broncos had no answers for the Steelers' inspired defensive play and pressure tactics and a great opportunity slipped away.

Expect the Broncos to be right back in the thick of it. Give them credit for what they did and understand that on that one day they ran into a team playing at a physical and emotional peak. Understand that the Broncos went right back to work, trying to fix their remaining holes and build on their strengths. They are nothing if not determined, or have you never felt the burning gaze of Coach Mike Shanahan?

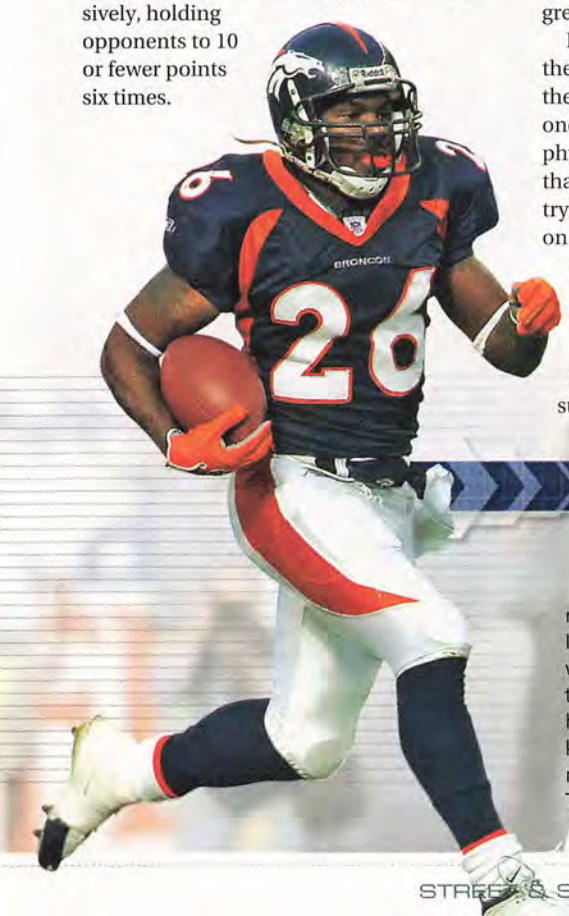
The Broncos were 13-3 last season, with two of those losses by a combined five points. It's hard to top that, but surely they will try.

Good things abound. The offensive line, a collection of fellows with nasty attitudes and a great cohesiveness, should return intact. The only one of this quintet with questions about his age is center Tom Nalen, 35, and he is still a top competitor. This group excels at run-blocking in a scheme that asks the running back to pick any of three holes, make a cut and get upfield.

It is not the biggest line. Right tackle George Foster, at 338, is the only one of the starters who exceeds 300 pounds. Quickness and agility outrank sheer power in Denver's approach. But that doesn't mean these guys can't hold their ground against a pass rush. They allowed only 23 sacks last year, though that was up marginally from the year before.

The vaunted running game gets a bit of a makeover with the departure of Mike Anderson. The Broncos cut ties with him after six seasons, even though he rushed for 1,014 yards and 12 touchdowns in 2005. He quickly found work with the Baltimore Ravens. In his place as the starter, look for Tatum Bell. The 5-11, 213-pounder lacks a little of Anderson's size but brings more speed and burst to the table.

Bell, as the change-of-pace back last year, rushed for 921 yards and averaged 5.3 yards



## THE BOOK ON ... TATUM BELL

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Tatum Bell is going to be the bell cow now, no pun intended. It has been running back-by-committee, but now he is going to have to be the guy and I think everything will play off him. If they can be effective running the ball with him, their play-action passing game will work. If Bell isn't the answer, they are going to have troubles on offense. [Jake] Plummer can't carry it all on his shoulders and he needs a running game. Is Bell durable enough? I don't know. He hasn't been the main guy. He's their type of running back, fits the mold they've had the last 10 years. He's faster than Mike Anderson, faster than Terrell Davis, but he's not a big guy like they were. It remains to be seen if he can be a 25-carry guy over 16 games."

NFL HELMET COURTESY SCOREHERE.COM. AVAILABLE FOR ORDER AT WWW.SCOREHERE.COM OR CALL: 800-784-2990.

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; BRYON HETZLER / US PRESSWIRE

## FACT

The Broncos became the third team in NFL history to have two 900-yard running backs (Mike Anderson and Tatum Bell), a 1,000-yard receiver (Rod Smith) and a 3,000-yard passer (Jake Plummer) in the same season, joining the 1980 Falcons and 1988 Bengals.

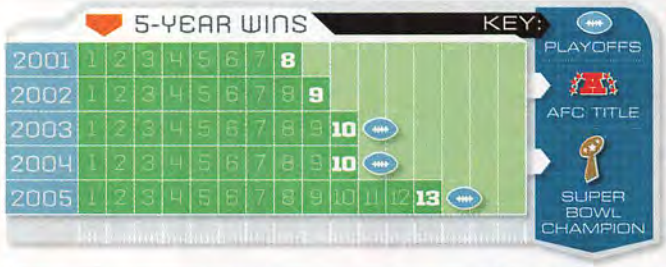
## STAT

Rod Smith's 775 receptions since the beginning of the '97 season rank second behind the Colts' Marvin Harrison (863). Smith needs three catches for 800 career receptions, making him the first undrafted player in NFL history to reach that mark.

## LOOK IT UP

Jake Plummer won 30 games and compiled a 69.1-percent passer rating in six seasons with the Arizona Cardinals. In three seasons with the Broncos, he has 32 victories and an 88.1-percent passer rating.

## 5-YEAR WINS




## BRONCOS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **MIKE SHANAHAN** (11 YEARS)
   **Record with Broncos:** 122-67
2. **DAN REEVES** (12 YEARS)
   **Record with Broncos:** 117-79-1
3. **RED MILLER** (4 YEARS)
   **Record with Broncos:** 42-25

## THE COUNT

**13**
The number of consecutive 100-point seasons for kicker Jason Elam, an NFL record.

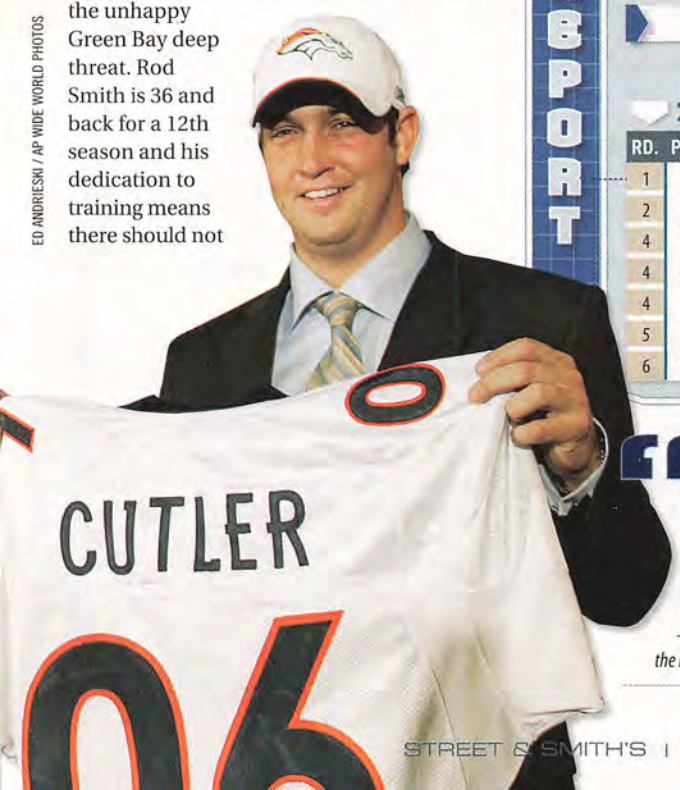
**97-13**
The Broncos' record when leading after three quarters during the Mike Shanahan era.

**18.3**
Ashley Lelie's league-leading average for yards per reception in 2005.

per carry. This switch allows the Broncos to get a little younger in the backfield. Bell will compete for time with Ron Dayne, who was very effective in limited duty in his first season with the Broncos. Dayne would figure to get more snaps this year as well, but the Broncos always like to load up on tailbacks and let things sort themselves out.

The release of Jeb Putzier opens up the possibility of Stephen Alexander making more of an impact as a receiver than he has at tight end. The Broncos have primarily asked him to block but they do like to throw to the tight end—Putzier and Alexander combined for 58 catches last year. The Broncos also have some young players here and they like Wesley Duke a lot, though he played very little in '05.

The receiving corps got a needed boost when the Broncos traded for Javon Walker, the unhappy Green Bay deep threat. Rod Smith is 36 and back for a 12th season and his dedication to training means there should not




ED ANDRIESKI / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

## DRAFT REPORT

Denver traded up and made a deal with the Rams at No. 11 overall in order to select **Jay Cutler**. With a team so close to the Super Bowl, the selection of a quarterback could have been the biggest surprise of the first round. **Tony Scheffler** fills a need at tight end, but must add strength to be more of a factor in the running game. **Brandon Marshall** has size and athletic ability and could be a boom or bust. **Elvis Dumervil** dominated as a senior, but lacks size and dropped until the fourth round due to unimpressive workouts. **Domenik Hixon** is a MAC sleeper from Akron who could surprise. **Chris Kuper** dominated at North Dakota and will provide depth at guard. **Greg Eslinger** fits extremely well into the Broncos' zone-blocking scheme and will be groomed to replace Tom Nalen. This has the look of one of the better drafts of the year.

**GRADE: B+**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 11 | Cutler, Jay | QB | 6-3 | 225 | Vanderbilt |
| 2 | 29 | Scheffler, Tony | TE | 6-5 | 255 | Western Michigan |
| 4 | 22 | Marshall, Brandon | WR | 6-4 | 230 | UCF |
| 4 | 29 | Dumervil, Elvis | DE | 5-11 | 258 | Louisville |
| 4 | 33 | Hixon, Domenik | WR | 6-2 | 192 | Akron |
| 5 | 28 | Kuper, Chris | G | 6-4 | 302 | North Dakota |
| 6 | 29 | Eslinger, Greg | C | 6-3 | 291 | Minnesota |

## HE SAID IT:

**Yeah, I wouldn't trade spots with them [Vince Young and Matt Leinart]. I mean, they're going to get a little bit more money. That's fine. They can have it. Staying here and getting in a situation like this, I think down the road is going to pay off.**

*—first-round pick Jay Cutler on getting selected later in the draft by the Broncos*

## 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 1 | @ St. Louis | |
| SEPT. 10 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| WEEK 2 | vs. Kansas City | |
| SEPT. 17 | 4:15 | SCORE |
| WEEK 3 | @ New England | |
| SEPT. 24 | 8:15 | SCORE |
| WEEK 4 | *OPEN DATE* | |
| WEEK 5 | vs. Baltimore | |
| OCT. 9 | 8:30 | SCORE |
| WEEK 6 | vs. Oakland | |
| OCT. 15 | 8:15 | SCORE |
| WEEK 7 | @ Cleveland | |
| OCT. 22 | 4:05 | SCORE |
| WEEK 8 | vs. Indianapolis | |
| OCT. 29 | 4:15 | SCORE |
| WEEK 9 | @ Pittsburgh | |
| NOV. 5 | 4:15 | SCORE |
| WEEK 10 | @ Oakland | |
| NOV. 12 | 4:05 | SCORE |
| WEEK 11 | vs. San Diego | |
| NOV. 19 | 4:15 | SCORE |
| WEEK 12 | @ Kansas City | |
| ★ MUST-SEE GAME ★ | | |
| *At Kansas City on Thanksgiving night, as NFL Network televises its first game. It will be Denver's third division game in a row and third road game in four weeks.* | | |
| NOV. 23 | 8:00 | SCORE |
| WEEK 13 | vs. Seattle | |
| DEC. 3 | 4:15 | SCORE |
| WEEK 14 | @ San Diego | |
| DEC. 10 | 4:15 | SCORE |
| WEEK 15 | @ Arizona | |
| DEC. 17 | 4:05 | SCORE |
| WEEK 16 | vs. Cincinnati | |
| DEC. 24 | 4:15 | SCORE |
| WEEK 17 | vs. San Francisco | |
| DEC. 31 | 4:15 | SCORE |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | L | 10-34 | at Miami |
| 09/18 | W | 20-17 | San Diego |
| 09/26 | W | 30-10 | Kansas City |
| 10/02 | W | 20-7 | at Jacksonville |
| 10/09 | W | 21-19 | Washington |
| 10/16 | W | 28-20 | New England |
| 10/23 | L | 23-24 | at New York Giants |
| 10/30 | W | 49-21 | Philadelphia |
| 11/13 | W | 31-17 | at Oakland |
| 11/20 | W | 27-0 | New York Jets |
| 11/24 | W | 24-21 | at Dallas |
| 12/04 | L | 27-31 | at Kansas City |
| 12/11 | W | 12-10 | Baltimore |
| 12/17 | W | 28-17 | at Buffalo |
| 12/24 | W | 22-3 | Oakland |
| 12/31 | W | 23-7 | at San Diego |

WON **13**, LOST **3**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M. Anderson | 239 | 1014 | 4.2 | 44t | 12 |
| Bell | 173 | 921 | 5.3 | 68 | 8 |
| Dayne | 53 | 270 | 5.1 | 55 | 1 |
| Plummer | 46 | 151 | 3.3 | 22 | 2 |
| Lelie | 5 | 84 | 16.8 | 39 | 0 |
| Van Pelt | 11 | 48 | 4.4 | 11 | 1 |
| Sapp | 5 | 21 | 4.2 | 10 | 0 |
| Adams | 5 | 14 | 2.8 | 13 | 0 |
| Johnson | 4 | 9 | 2.3 | 4 | 1 |
| Smith | 1 | 7 | 7.0 | 7 | 0 |
| **Broncos** | **542** | **2539** | **4.7** | **68** | **25** |
| **Opponents** | **344** | **1363** | **4.0** | **61** | **10** |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Smith | 85 | 1105 | 13.0 | 72 | 6 |
| Lelie | 42 | 770 | 18.3 | 56 | 1 |
| Putzier | 37 | 481 | 13.0 | 32 | 0 |
| Adams | 21 | 203 | 9.7 | 21 | 0 |
| S. Alexander | 21 | 170 | 8.1 | 15 | 1 |
| M. Anderson | 18 | 212 | 11.8 | 66t | 1 |
| Bell | 18 | 104 | 5.8 | 14 | 0 |
| Johnson | 17 | 160 | 9.4 | 33 | 5 |
| Devoe | 9 | 87 | 9.7 | 44t | 1 |
| Dayne | 3 | 17 | 5.7 | 7 | 0 |
| Carswell | 2 | 3 | 1.5 | 2t | 2 |
| Duke | 2 | 22 | 11.0 | 21 | 1 |
| Sapp | 2 | 17 | 8.5 | 12 | 0 |
| Watts | 2 | 22 | 11.0 | 12 | 0 |
| **Broncos** | **279** | **3373** | **12.1** | **72** | **18** |
| **Opponents** | **344** | **3833** | **11.1** | **91t** | **20** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Plummer | 456 | 277 | 3366 | 18 | 7 |
| Van Pelt | 8 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Smith | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Broncos** | **465** | **279** | **3373** | **18** | **7** |
| **Opponents** | **613** | **344** | **3833** | **20** | **20** |

**SACKS**

Ekuban 4, Lynch 4, Pryce 4, Gold 3, Warren 3, Wilson 3, Brown 2, Coleman 1, M. Myers 1, Veal 1, D. Williams 1

**Broncos 28, Opponents 23**

ASHLEY LELIE, WR

ALAN H. SCHWARTZ / WIRE IMAGE.COM

be much of a drop-off in his performance. Still, he will be one of the oldest starting receivers in the league. Ashley Lelie, who has fallen short of expectations over his four pro seasons, was asking to be traded in early spring if he was not going to be the No. 1 guy. That's a job that needs to be earned, not whined over. Walker, if his knee is healed, will unseat Lelie and bump him to No. 3 if he sticks around.

Lelie has the downfield speed, but he has lacked consistency. He caught one touchdown pass last year, marking a career low, and has only 12 in four seasons. He was a No. 1 pick (19th overall) in 2002, and Denver clearly had hoped for more from him by now. Charlie Adams, who did not have a reception in his first three seasons, made 21 catches last year and should get a little more of a look. Darius Watts hasn't shown much yet, so it's no wonder Denver was looking outside the organization for help.

Jake Plummer took the brunt of the blame for the loss to the Steelers, but even the turnovers cannot be laid solely at his door. And it was a shame that a season in which he played with such discipline and truly reduced the errors—physical and mental—had to end in this fashion. Plummer fashioned a solid passer rating of 90.2 and his seven interceptions tied his career low set in 2003. The Broncos put pressure on him to continue to get better by trading up to select Jay Cutler in the draft.

The Broncos offense accounted for 374 of the team's 395 points, and that's a credit to the way Plummer managed the game. Denver's 16 turnovers last year were the fewest in the NFL. The weak spot here is the inexperience of Plummer's backup, Bradlee Van Pelt. Cutler could push him to be the No. 2.

The way Denver collected defensive linemen who were cast off by the Cleveland Browns seemed like a joke last year, but the Broncos liked the way it went. Enough so that they added another, Kenard Lang, who was miscast in Cleveland's 3-4 as a linebacker.

Unfortunately, the best of Denver's linemen is gone. The Broncos let Trevor Pryce go and may look at Lang in his spot. Otherwise, John Engleberger will have to step in, and that is not an upgrade for a pass rush that lacked a real burst from the edge. Denver had not one but three sack leaders, and they all tied with four. Pryce was one of them.

Defensive tackle Gerard Warren, another of those Cleveland expatriates, played well against the run. The Broncos ranked second in the league against the run and should remain tough on it.

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Broncos)*

"They're still one of the teams to beat in the AFC. Offensively, they'll be who they are if Jake Plummer plays the way he played last year and keeps the interceptions down. They won 13 games and just ran into a better team in Pittsburgh in the playoffs. ... Defensively, they've done a great job of patchworking their front, but the key to that was Trevor Pryce and they don't have him and that's going to be a big loss. Their linebackers are one of the better groups in the league. The corners, with Champ Bailey and Darrent Williams, are solid. You've got to be concerned about John Lynch's age and the fact that you're playing with a free agent [Nick Ferguson] at the other safety spot. But the linebackers are good enough to play both ends of it—they can help up front on the run and they can cover."

That aspect of their play, however, forces opponents to the air. The absence of an edge rusher and the combination of some age at safety and youth at the corners conspired to pull the Broncos down to 29th in the defensive rankings against the pass. Pittsburgh picked relentlessly on rookie Domonique Foxworth, who otherwise had played well, and New England, in an earlier playoff game, took its shots at Champ Bailey. Of course any corner lined up opposite Bailey will get a lot of work. Karl Paymah and Darrent Williams will also be in the mix with Foxworth; all are second-year players.

John Lynch will be pretending to be a heat-seeking missile for a 14th season. He'll be 35 in September and the Broncos would be wise to start preparing for his decline. Whatever he has lost in range he makes up for in preparation and intensity. If he can't get to a spot, it's a physical shortcoming, not a mental one. The strong safety, Nick Ferguson, will be 32. It's hard to imagine the Broncos lining up this same tandem in '07.

The strength of this defense is the linebackers. This is as good a group as there is in the league. Ian Gold's return last year after a season with Tampa Bay bumped D.J. Williams to the strongside, but that worked in Denver's favor. Gold led the team in tackles, tied for the team lead with four forced fumbles and recovered two fumbles. Middle linebacker Al Wilson was right behind Gold on the tackle chart. Williams is good at the point of attack.

Darrent Williams showed some explosion as a punt returner, though the one he took back for a seeming score was wiped out by a penalty. He was less effective on kickoffs, but should get another look there. It will be him or Roc Alexander.

Kicker Jason Elam had sort of a down year, at least for him. He was the second-lowest-ranked kicker in the AFC. His eight misses were the most he's had in a single season since 10 went awry in 1997. He is entering his 14th season and the problems he had from distances of more than 40 yards ought to send up a red flag.

The Broncos were almost good enough last year. Almost. They will need to stay injury-free and figure out where they're going with their receivers. But if Bell and Plummer can do what they did a year ago, the Broncos should be good enough to win the AFC West again. They can get over the humps. They just need to be ready to scale the mountain.

COURTESY NFL (2)

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Javon Walker**, WR (trade, GB)
- **Kenard Lang**, LB (CLE)
- **Amon Gordon**, DE (CLE)
- **Nate Webster**, LB (CIN)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Trevor Pryce**, DE (BAL)
- **Mike Anderson**, RB (BAL)
- **Jeb Putzier**, TE (HOU)
- **Monsanto Pope**, DT (NYG)
- **Quentin Griffin**, RB (KC)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 360.4 | 5 |
| Rushing | 158.7 | 2 |
| Passing | 201.7 | 18 |
| Scoring | 395 | 7 |
| Punt Returns | 8.5 | 11t |
| Kick Returns | 20.7 | 25 |
| Red Zone TD % | 60.3 | 7 |
| Total Defense | 312.9 | 15 |
| Against Rush | 85.2 | 2 |
| Against Pass | 227.7 | 29 |
| Points Allowed | 258 | 3t |
| Interceptions | 20 | 6 |
| Sacks | 28 | 28t |
| Turnover Diff. | +20 | 2 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 330 | 145 | 162 | 23 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | PG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 58 | 288 | 35 | 15 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 25 | 18 | 0 | 3 |

## BRONCOS ROSTER

**Mike Shanahan, head coach**; **Mike Heimerdinger**, asst. head coach; **Larry Coyer**, def. coord.; **Rick Dennison**, off. coord.; **Ronnie Bradford**, special teams; **Tim Brewster**, tight ends; **Jacob Burney**, def. line/ends; **Kirk Doll**, linebackers; **Thomas McGaughey**, special teams asst.; **Pat McPherson**, quarterbacks; **Andre Patterson**, def. line/tackles; **Jim Ryan**, def. asst.; **Bob Slowik**, def. backs; **Ryan Slowik**, def. asst.; **Jimmy Spencer**, asst. def. backs; **Bobby Turner**, running backs; **Steve Watson**, wide receivers

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Parsons, Preston | QB | 6-4 | 232 | 02/19/1979 | 0 | Northern Arizona |
| 16 | Plummer, Jake | QB | 6-2 | 212 | 12/19/1974 | 9 | Arizona State |
| 11 | Van Pelt, Bradlee | QB | 6-2 | 220 | 07/03/1980 | 1 | Colorado State |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 68 | Bibla, Martin | G | 6-3 | 306 | 10/04/1979 | 3 | Miami (FL) |
| 65 | Carlisle, Cooper | G | 6-5 | 295 | 08/11/1977 | 6 | Florida |
| 70 | Collins, Javiar | T | 6-6 | 322 | 04/13/1978 | 2 | Northwestern |
| 72 | Foster, George | T | 6-5 | 338 | 06/09/1980 | 3 | Georgia |
| 74 | Green, Cornell | T | 6-6 | 315 | 08/25/1976 | 3 | UCF |
| 50 | Hamilton, Ben | G | 6-4 | 283 | 08/18/1977 | 4 | Minnesota |
| 63 | Hunt, Rob | C | 6-3 | 298 | 03/03/1981 | 0 | North Dakota State |
| 78 | Lepsis, Matt | T | 6-4 | 290 | 01/13/1974 | 8 | Colorado |
| 62 | Myers, Chris | G | 6-4 | 300 | 09/15/1981 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| 66 | Nalen, Tom | C | 6-3 | 286 | 05/13/1971 | 12 | Boston College |
| 64 | Pears, Erik | T | 6-8 | 305 | 06/25/1982 | 0 | Colorado State |
| 59 | Whitley, Taylor | G | 6-4 | 315 | 02/21/1980 | 2 | Texas A&M |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 26 | Bell, Tatum | RB | 5-11 | 213 | 03/02/1981 | 2 | Oklahoma State |
| 34 | Cobbs, Cedric | RB | 6-0 | 225 | 01/09/1981 | 1 | Arkansas |
| 33 | Dayne, Ron | RB | 5-10 | 245 | 03/14/1978 | 5 | Wisconsin |
| 39 | Johnson, Kyle | RB | 6-0 | 242 | 12/15/1978 | 2 | Syracuse |
| 31 | Miree, Brandon | RB | 5-11 | 237 | 04/14/1981 | 0 | Pittsburgh |
| 37 | Sapp, Cecil | RB | 5-11 | 229 | 12/23/1978 | 3 | Colorado State |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 81 | Adams, Charlie | WR | 6-2 | 190 | 10/23/1979 | 3 | Hofstra |
| 82 | Alexander, Stephen | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 11/07/1975 | 8 | Oklahoma |
| 14 | Devoe, Todd | WR | 6-2 | 198 | 04/05/1980 | 1 | Central Missouri St. |
| 84 | Duke, Wesley | TE | 6-5 | 225 | 06/21/1981 | 1 | Mercer |
| 89 | Jackson, Nate | TE | 6-3 | 235 | 06/04/1979 | 3 | Menlo |
| 87 | Kircus, David | WR | 6-2 | 190 | 02/19/1980 | 2 | Grand Valley State |
| 83 | Leach, Mike | TE | 6-2 | 245 | 10/18/1976 | 6 | William & Mary |
| 85 | Lelie, Ashley | WR | 6-3 | 200 | 02/16/1980 | 4 | Hawaii |
| 75 | Mustard, Chad | TE | 6-6 | 288 | 10/08/1977 | 2 | North Dakota |
| 80 | Smith, Rod | WR | 6-0 | 200 | 05/15/1970 | 11 | Missouri Southern |
| 13 | Terrell, David | WR | 6-3 | 212 | 03/13/1979 | 5 | Michigan |
| 86 | Trusty, Landon | TE | 6-7 | 260 | 10/09/1981 | 0 | Central Arkansas |
| | Walker, Javon | WR | 6-3 | 215 | 10/14/1978 | 4 | Florida State |
| 17 | Watts, Darius | WR | 6-2 | 190 | 12/19/1981 | 2 | Marshall |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 98 | Brown, Courtney | DE | 6-4 | 285 | 02/14/1978 | 6 | Penn State |
| 91 | Ekuban, Ebenezer | DE | 6-3 | 275 | 05/29/1976 | 7 | North Carolina |
| 60 | Engelberger, John | DE | 6-4 | 268 | 10/18/1976 | 6 | Virginia Tech |
| 99 | Gause, George | DE | 6-5 | 275 | 06/20/1982 | 0 | South Carolina |
| 94 | Gordon, Amon | DE | 6-2 | 305 | 10/13/1981 | 1 | Stanford |
| 90 | Jackson, Corey | DE | 6-6 | 255 | 11/06/1978 | 1 | Nevada |
| 76 | Kenard Lang | DE | 6-3 | 257 | 01/31/1975 | 10 | Miami (FL) |
| 96 | Myers, Michael | DT | 6-2 | 300 | 01/20/1976 | 8 | Alabama |
| 95 | Vaughn, Khaleed | DE | 6-4 | 276 | 05/20/1981 | 1 | Clemson |
| 97 | Veal, Demetrin | DT | 6-2 | 288 | 08/11/1981 | 2 | Tennessee |
| 61 | Warren, Gerard | DT | 6-4 | 325 | 07/25/1978 | 5 | Florida |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 21 | Abdullah, Hamza | S | 6-2 | 213 | 08/20/1983 | 1 | Washington State |
| 45 | Alexander, Roc | CB | 5-10 | 190 | 09/23/1981 | 2 | Washington |
| 24 | Bailey, Champ | CB | 6-0 | 192 | 06/22/1978 | 7 | Georgia |
| 42 | Brandon, Sam | S | 6-2 | 200 | 07/05/1979 | 4 | UNLV |
| 40 | Cox, Curome | CB | 6-1 | 199 | 02/28/1981 | 1 | Maryland |
| 25 | Ferguson, Nick | S | 5-11 | 201 | 11/27/1974 | 6 | Georgia Tech |
| 22 | Foxworth, Domonique | CB | 5-11 | 180 | 03/27/1983 | 1 | Maryland |
| 47 | Lynch, John | S | 6-2 | 220 | 09/25/1971 | 13 | Stanford |
| 41 | Paymah, Karl | CB | 6-0 | 200 | 11/29/1982 | 1 | Washington State |
| 35 | Rogers, Antwaun | CB | 6-2 | 172 | 08/29/1982 | 0 | Purdue |
| 27 | Williams, Darrent | CB | 5-8 | 188 | 09/27/1982 | 1 | Oklahoma State |
| 32 | Young, Chris | S | 6-0 | 210 | 01/23/1980 | 2 | Georgia Tech |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 57 | Buhl, Josh | LB | 6-0 | 210 | 05/04/1981 | 0 | Kansas State |
| 51 | Burns, Keith | LB | 6-2 | 235 | 05/16/1972 | 12 | Oklahoma State |
| 54 | Chukwurah, Patrick | LB | 6-1 | 250 | 03/01/1979 | 4 | Wyoming |
| 52 | Gold, Ian | LB | 6-0 | 223 | 08/23/1978 | 6 | Michigan |
| 53 | Green, Louis | LB | 6-3 | 228 | 09/23/1979 | 2 | Alcorn State |
| 58 | Webster, Nate | LB | 6-0 | 235 | 11/29/1977 | 6 | Miami (FL) |
| 59 | Wells, Ray | LB | 6-1 | 234 | 08/20/1980 | 2 | Arizona |
| 55 | Williams, D.J. | LB | 6-1 | 242 | 07/20/1982 | 2 | Miami (FL) |
| 56 | Wilson, Al | LB | 6-0 | 240 | 06/21/1977 | 7 | Tennessee |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 1 | Elam, Jason | K | 5-11 | 200 | 03/08/1970 | 13 | Hawaii |
| 3 | Ernster, Paul | K | 6-0 | 217 | 01/26/1982 | 1 | Northern Arizona |
| 10 | Sauerbrun, Todd | P | 5-10 | 215 | 01/04/1973 | 11 | West Virginia |

2005 RECORD: 10-6 | www.kcchiefs.com

# KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

AFC WEST #2

**ARROWHEAD STADIUM**
CAPACITY: 79,451 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 816-920-9400

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 5 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 4 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 5 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| LINEBACKERS | 3 |
| SECONDARY | 2 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 4 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Trent Green | LE | Eric Hicks | P | Dustin Colquitt |
| FB | Ronnie Cruz | LT | Ryan Sims | PR | Dante Hall |
| RB | Larry Johnson | RT | Lional Dalton | H | Lawrence Tynes |
| LT | Willie Roaf | RE | Jared Allen | KR | Dante Hall |
| LG | Brian Waters | LLB | Derrick Johnson | | |
| C | Casey Wiegmann | MLB | Kawika Mitchell | | |
| RG | Will Shields | RLB | Kendrell Bell | | |
| RT | Jordan Black | LCB | Patrick Surtain | | |
| TE | Tony Gonzalez | RCB | Lenny Walls | | |
| WR | Samie Parker | SS | Sammy Knight | | |
| WR | Eddie Kennison | FS | Greg Wesley | | |

**ON THE RISE**

**LARRY JOHNSON**
running back
Gave a rough idea of how good he can be with '05 performance.

**FADING FAST**

**JEROME WOODS**
safety
Cannot run well enough anymore to handle any deep responsibilities.

# Firm Herm

## Edwards' coaching style could be enough to get the talented Chiefs over the hump with a playoff appearance.

The Kansas City Chiefs are not unaccustomed to emotion in the locker room.

For five years they toiled for Dick Vermeil, who often found himself moved to tears by a dramatic victory or gut-wrenching performance.

The days of teary hugs are over.

Vermeil retired (for the third time in his career) after the Chiefs finished 10-6 but out of the playoff race, ending a return that yielded only one postseason appearance and two winning records. Maybe the Chiefs will still want to carry tissues, but they'd best wad them up and put them in their ears.

Say hello to Herman Edwards. He will certainly say hello to you.

Edwards brings fire where Vermeil gushed water. This is a coach at home in the locker room, pushing up the intensity level. He spent five years with the New York Jets and went to the playoffs three times. His most notable pronouncement still airs with regularity: "You play to win the game. Helloooo?"

He left a team headed for the abyss for one that teeters on the edge of the playoffs. The Chiefs are a veteran team that borders on old and they may have to make their mark quickly before they start replacing the grizzled wonders on the offensive line.

Edwards moved quickly to establish Larry Johnson as the starting running back, so the Chiefs got younger there. They still want to keep Priest Holmes around. Edwards also will have fewer assistant coaches than the staff-crazy Vermeil, so as to limit the number of voices the players hear. He will put his stamp on this team.

Expect to see him standing on the defensive side of the field, deep in the secondary. That's where he played and that's what he knows. It may be where the Chiefs play the worst.

The acquisition of cornerback Patrick Surtain and strong safety Sammy Knight was supposed to make this group cohesive. Yet the Chiefs once again finished among the NFL's dregs in pass defense. They were 30th, yet that was an improvement because they were last the year before. Kansas City let veteran cornerbacks Eric Warfield and Dexter McCleon go and brought in Lenny Walls (dumped last year in midseason by the Denver Broncos) and likely will start him.

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## THE BOOK ON ... LARRY JOHNSON

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"He just took over and ran over people last year after Priest Holmes got hurt. When he came out of Penn State, he had a reputation for being just a north-south guy. But he showed more than that and some good speed as well. I like the way they got him involved in the passing game, but he still needs quite a bit of work in that part of his game. I don't know if he has completely put the maturity issue to rest, but I think part of the problem was that he and Dick [Vermeil] never really put some of their issues behind them. Herm [Edwards] starts fresh and he'll probably be spending more of his time with the defense than with the offense. Herm, I think, won the kid over when he named him the starter without going through a training-camp drama."

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; BARRY TAYLOR / WIRE IMAGE.COM

### FACT

Larry Johnson had a club-record 10 100-yard games in 2005, and his streak of nine in a row to end the season is the third longest in NFL history.

### STAT

The Chiefs led the NFL in total offense for the second straight year, averaging 387.0 yards per game.

### LOOK IT UP

The 2005 Chiefs became only the fourth team since the NFL expanded the playoffs to 12 teams in 1990 to miss the postseason despite having double-digit wins, joining Philadelphia (1990), San Francisco (1991) and Miami (2003), which were all 10-6.

### 5-YEAR WINS

### CHIEFS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **HANK STRAM** (15 YEARS)
   **Record with Chiefs:** 129-79-10
2. **MARTY SCHOTTENHEIMER** (10 YEARS)
   **Record with Chiefs:** 104-65-1
3. **DICK VERMEIL** (5 YEARS)
   **Record with Chiefs:** 44-37

### THE COUNT

**84**
Tony Gonzalez's consecutive games with a reception, the longest streak in team history.

**1,750**
Larry Johnson's franchise-record rushing total in 2005.

**2,382**
Kansas City's rushing yards in 2005, the fourth-best total in team history and most since 1981.

The Chiefs improved their linebacking last year by drafting Derrick Johnson in the first round. He covers lots of ground and was their third-leading tackler. Middle linebacker Kawika Mitchell really improved in his third season and gave the club a little stability where it feared it might have none after Mike Maslowski could not make it back from a knee injury. The big problem was Kendrell Bell, who had played in a 3-4 with the Pittsburgh Steelers and never seemed to fit what the Chiefs wanted to do. This is the spot that Shawn Barber was supposed to occupy, but he never fully recovered from a knee injury and signed with the Philadelphia Eagles.

The other persistent problem is the defensive front. Other than defensive end Jared Allen, no one can rush the passer. Other than defensive end Eric Hicks, no one can play the run. Top pick Tamba Hali will get his first look on the left side, challenging Hicks. At 275 pounds, he's a little smallish but the Chiefs like his high motor.

Lional Dalton is a journeyman. Period. Ryan Sims, a No. 1 pick in 2002, has not developed into a run-stuffing force. The Chiefs love John Browning, but his time is passing. And Junior Siavii, a massive man chosen in the second round in 2004, hardly gets on the field. Fifteen total tackles, no sacks—that's the line on him for '05.

Allen came out of nowhere two seasons ago to become the club's premier pass rusher and it would be nice if he got any help. Allen had 11 sacks last year; the Chiefs finished with 29, making them one of seven clubs that had fewer than 30. The league average was 37. If the Chiefs are going to be better against the pass, they need to give their opponents less time to throw and they cannot ask a secondary lacking speed to cover for so long.

## NFL DRAFT 2006 DRAFT REPORT

With a pressing need at cornerback, the Chiefs surprisingly waited until the fifth round to add **Marcus Maxey**, an athletic career backup at Miami. In the first round, Kansas City selected **Tamba Hali**. The Penn State pass rusher was expected to fall until the mid-second round after poor workouts prior to the draft. The recent history of Nittany Lion linemen failing on the next level is a significant concern. **Bernard Pollard** has size and athletic ability, but there were concerns regarding his coachability. **Brodie Croyle** was added in the third round to be groomed to replace Trent Green. Tackle/guard **Tré Stallings** will struggle making the final roster. Athletic **Jeff Webb** comes from a San Diego State program that has produced NFL receivers, but must learn to put the team first. **Jarrad Page** has size and athletic ability, but may need to spend his rookie season on the practice squad. This could be the worst draft of any team this year, as little or no help at cornerback was added.

GRADE: **C-**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 20 | Hali, Tamba | DE | 6-3 | 275 | Penn State |
| 2 | 22 | Pollard, Bernard | S | 6-2 | 223 | Purdue |
| 3 | 21 | Croyle, Brodie | QB | 6-3 | 204 | Alabama |
| 5 | 21 | Maxey, Marcus | DB | 6-2 | 197 | Miami (FL) |
| 6 | 17 | Stallings, Tre' | G | 6-3 | 315 | Mississippi |
| 6 | 21 | Webb, Jeff | WR | 6-2 | 201 | San Diego State |
| 7 | 20 | Page, Jarrad | S | 6-0 | 220 | UCLA |

### HE SAID IT:

**I don't care what back it is, he's not going to carry the ball 500 times. You can figure out the rest mathematically. You're going to have at least two backs.**

*—Coach Herm Edwards on Kansas City's running back situation*

## 2006 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. Cincinnati
SEPT. 10 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 2** @ Denver
SEPT. 17 — 4:15 — SCORE

**WEEK 3** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 4** vs. San Francisco
OCT. 1 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 5** @ Arizona
OCT. 8 — 4:05 — SCORE

**WEEK 6** @ Pittsburgh
OCT. 15 — 4:15 — SCORE

**WEEK 7** vs. San Diego
OCT. 22 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 8** vs. Seattle
OCT. 29 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 9** @ St. Louis
NOV. 5 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 10** @ Miami
NOV. 12 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 11** vs. Oakland
NOV. 19 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 12** vs. Denver
NOV. 23 — 8:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 13** @ Cleveland
DEC. 3 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 14** vs. Baltimore
DEC. 10 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 15** @ San Diego
DEC. 17 — 4:05

★ **MUST-SEE GAME** ★

*These are evenly matched teams that could be battling for a wild-card spot and the Chiefs understand the pain of missing out.*

SCORE

**WEEK 16** @ Oakland
DEC. 23 — 8:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 17** vs. Jacksonville
DEC. 31 — 1:00 — SCORE

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | W | 27-7 | New York Jets |
| 09/18 | W | 23-17 | at Oakland |
| 09/26 | L | 10-30 | at Denver |
| 10/02 | L | 31-37 | Philadelphia |
| 10/16 | W | 28-21 | Washington |
| 10/21 | W | 30-20 | at Miami |
| 10/30 | L | 20-28 | at San Diego |
| 11/06 | W | 27-23 | Oakland |
| 11/13 | L | 3-14 | at Buffalo |
| 11/20 | W | 45-17 | at Houston |
| 11/27 | W | 26-16 | New England |
| 12/04 | W | 31-27 | Denver |
| 12/11 | L | 28-31 | at Dallas |
| 12/17 | L | 17-27 | at New York Giants |
| 12/24 | W | 20-7 | San Diego |
| 01/01 | W | 37-3 | Cincinnati |

WON **10**, LOST **6**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L. Johnson | 336 | 1750 | 5.2 | 49t | 20 |
| Holmes | 119 | 451 | 3.8 | 35t | 6 |
| Green | 35 | 82 | 2.3 | 13 | 0 |
| Kennison | 7 | 43 | 6.1 | 23 | 0 |
| Brown | 7 | 21 | 3.0 | 7 | 0 |
| Richardson | 6 | 20 | 3.3 | 8 | 0 |
| D. Hall | 7 | 11 | 1.6 | 7 | 0 |
| Wilson | 1 | 6 | 6.0 | 6 | 0 |
| Collins | 2 | -2 | -1.0 | -1 | 0 |
| **Chiefs** | **520** | **2382** | **4.6** | **49t** | **26** |
| **Opponents** | **383** | **1570** | **4.1** | **65t** | **11** |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gonzalez | 78 | 905 | 11.6 | 39 | 2 |
| Kennison | 68 | 1102 | 16.2 | 55 | 5 |
| Parker | 36 | 533 | 14.8 | 49 | 3 |
| D. Hall | 34 | 436 | 12.8 | 52t | 3 |
| L. Johnson | 33 | 343 | 10.4 | 36 | 1 |
| Holmes | 21 | 197 | 9.4 | 60t | 1 |
| Horn | 18 | 187 | 10.4 | 50 | 0 |
| Richardson | 9 | 68 | 7.6 | 22 | 1 |
| Boerigter | 8 | 119 | 14.9 | 38 | 0 |
| Dunn | 5 | 53 | 10.6 | 24 | 0 |
| Brown | 3 | 23 | 7.7 | 9 | 1 |
| Wilson | 3 | 33 | 11.0 | 16 | 0 |
| Cruz | 1 | 15 | 15.0 | 15 | 0 |
| **Chiefs** | **317** | **4014** | **12.7** | **60t** | **17** |
| **Opponents** | **325** | **3862** | **11.9** | **78t** | **25** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Green | 507 | 317 | 4014 | 17 | 10 |
| **Chiefs** | **507** | **317** | **4014** | **17** | **10** |
| **Opponents** | **559** | **325** | **3862** | **25** | **16** |

**SACKS**

Allen 11, Hicks 4, Sapp 2.5, Browning 2, D. Johnson 2, Knight 2, K. Mitchell 2, Bell 1.5, Dalton 1, C. Hall 1

**Chiefs 29, Opponents 32**

SCOTT WEAVER

The strength of this team remains on the offensive side of the ball. That's even without Vermeil, who loved the prolific production, and Al Saunders, who coordinated the passing game, no longer on the premises. Look no further than Johnson for the attack's new starting point. Though he started only nine games in replacing the injured Holmes, Johnson rushed for 1,750 yards. That led the AFC and was good enough for third in the league behind Shaun Alexander (1,880) and Tiki Barber (1,860), and Johnson averaged 5.2 yards a carry.

His emergence was the culmination of a long and frustrating coming-out party and it's not likely that Holmes will go gentle into that good night of benchwarming. He was an every-down player and now he'll be a no-down player. When Edwards coached the Jets, he didn't spend a lot of time shuttling backs in and out. He pretty much stuck with his stud, Curtis Martin.

Most teams would not miss a fullback, but the Chiefs very well could. Tony Richardson, a superb blocker, had spent his entire 11-year career with the team after going undrafted in 1995. He signed with the Minnesota Vikings as a free agent. Kansas City will start Ronnie Cruz, but will find a hole in their locker room where Richardson supplied veteran leadership in the same way he took on linebackers.

Johnson can make his own holes, but he has a terrific offensive line in front of him to guide the way. From left to right and from inside out, this is one solid, veteran line. But it's also getting old. Left tackle Willie Roaf is 36 and right guard Will Shields, who weighed retirement, will be 35 in September. Both are entering their 14th seasons. Center Casey Wiegmann is 33. Youth comes from the remaining starters. Left guard Brian Waters is 29 and Jordan Black, the presumptive right tackle, is 26.

Nothing says that this gang is too old. Yet. The thing to watch out for is when a team seems to get old all at once.

Trent Green's touchdown passes were down a bit last year but that's not an indication of the type of season he had. The Chiefs scored 26 rushing touchdowns and that cut into some of his opportunities. Additionally, teams feel free to do more to take away tight end Tony Gonzalez because the Chiefs have so few viable options outside.

Green manages games well and doesn't throw the ball into traffic. His 17 TD passes equaled his low in five seasons as the Chiefs' starter but his 10 interceptions were his

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Chiefs)*

"This is a team getting old at a number of spots. The offensive line is very good, but guys like [Willie] Roaf and [Will] Shields have been around a long time and are well into their 30s. You wonder if they won't get old all at once. Same with the quarterback. [Trent] Green has been around about as long as Roaf and Shields, but he still looks agile enough back there and they really don't have anyone behind him. Despite all of that, they have Larry Johnson and he hides a lot of sins. ...

"They've had an ongoing problem finding second and third receivers and most teams probably wouldn't think of Eddie Kennison as their first guy. ...

"Defensively, they just haven't been very good. Kendrell Bell looked like a mistake from the jump last year and that linebacker spot has been a problem for years. They've got corner problems and not a lot of speed back there."

fewest in any year as a starter anywhere. Longtime backup Todd Collins followed Saunders to the Washington Redskins, so Damon Huard, unused and untested, could well be the No. 2 QB.

Gonzalez had a frustrating year. A favorite option of Green's around the goal line, he was taken out of that part of the game by opposing defenses and by a game plan that emphasized the run inside the red zone. His two touchdown catches tied a career low and that was set in each of his first two seasons. He hadn't had fewer than six in any subsequent season.

His catches also dropped to 78, but that was from 102, an NFL record for a tight end. It was no surprise that defenses decided the Chiefs would have to beat them without Gonzalez.

The Chiefs are still deficient at receiver. Eddie Kennison had a really solid year, but he's not a marquee player. It is hard to say if Samie Parker will be one, though he showed some flashes. Johnson showed some decent hands and the ability to run after the catch when the Chiefs dropped the ball off to him. The Chiefs could use a real home-run hitter and some depth at this position.

Dante Hall, the game's most dangerous return artist in 2002 and 2003, averaged 6.6 yards per punt return, the worst mark of his career except for when, as a rookie, he fielded just six balls. His kickoff numbers were also down a little, but he had one return for a score. The more the Chiefs use him as a third or fourth receiver, the more he is compromised in other areas.

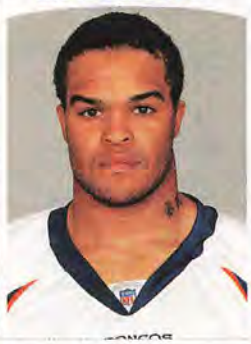
The Chiefs' punting game is mediocre. Kicker Lawrence Tynes has a strong leg but isn't overwhelmingly accurate from long range. And even though he can drill the ball on kickoffs, the Chiefs allow their opponents advantageous starting position. This will require a look.

Edwards' leadership skills and his warm relationship with team President Carl Peterson might be enough to get the Chiefs through the rough patches and into the playoffs this year. That would truly be less than half the battle. Even though they've only been to the postseason once in the last eight seasons, they last won a playoff game in 1993, when they were stopped in the AFC title game. They're 0-5 in the postseason since and haven't come close to a Super Bowl.

COURTESY NFL.

FINAL GRADE: 89 STOCK STEADY REPORT

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS



- **Quentin Griffin**, RB (DEN)
- **Ron Edwards**, DT (BUF)
- **Chris Johnson**, DB (STL)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Todd Collins**, QB (WAS)
- **Tony Richardson**, FB (MIN)
- **Shawn Barber**, LB (PHI)
- **Gary Stills**, DE (BAL)
- **Marc Boerigter**, WR (GB)
- **Chris Horn**, WR (NO)
- **Brett Fischer**, WR (DET)
- **Eric Warfield**, CB (NE)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 387.0 | 1 |
| Rushing | 148.9 | 4 |
| Passing | 238.1 | 6 |
| Scoring | 403 | 6 |
| Punt Returns | 6.8 | 24 |
| Kick Returns | 23.4 | 10 |
| Red Zone TD % | 51.9 | 14 |
| Total Defense | 328.1 | 25 |
| Against Rush | 98.1 | 7 |
| Against Pass | 229.9 | 30 |
| Points Allowed | 325 | 16 |
| Interceptions | 16 | 14t |
| Sacks | 29 | 26t |
| Turnover Diff. | +8 | 8 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 347 | 138 | 182 | 27 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | PG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 54 | 257 | 28 | 20 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 26 | 17 | 1 | 2 |

## CHIEFS ROSTER

**Herm Edwards, head coach**; **Mike Solari**, off. coord.; **Gunther Cunningham**, def. coord.; **Dick Curl**, asst. head coach off.; **Jon Embree**, tight ends; **Charlie Joiner**, wide receivers; **John Matsko**, off. line; **James Saxon**, running backs; **Terry Shea**, quarterbacks; **Don Blackmon**, linebackers; **David Gibbs**, def. backs; **Tim Krumrie**, def. line; **Mike Priefer**, special teams

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | Green, Trent | QB | 6-3 | 217 | 07/09/1970 | 8 | Indiana |
| 11 | Huard, Damon | QB | 6-3 | 212 | 07/09/1973 | 5 | Washington |
| 5 | Kilian, James | QB | 6-4 | 215 | 10/24/1980 | 0 | Tulsa |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 65 | Black, Jordan | T | 6-5 | 304 | 01/28/1980 | 2 | Notre Dame |
| 67 | Bober, Chris | T | 6-5 | 310 | 12/24/1976 | 5 | Nebraska-Omaha |
| 66 | Ingram, Johnathan | C | 6-2 | 300 | 09/20/1980 | 1 | San Diego State |
| 72 | Parquet, Jeremy | T | 6-6 | 321 | 04/11/1982 | 0 | Southern Miss |
| 77 | Roaf, Willie | T | 6-5 | 320 | 04/18/1970 | 13 | Louisiana Tech |
| 79 | Sampson, Kevin | T | 6-4 | 312 | 06/19/1981 | 2 | Syracuse |
| 68 | Shields, Will | G | 6-3 | 320 | 09/15/1971 | 13 | Nebraska |
| 71 | Svitek, Will | T | 6-6 | 300 | 01/08/1982 | 1 | Stanford |
| 54 | Waters, Brian | G | 6-3 | 318 | 02/18/1977 | 6 | North Texas |
| 76 | Welbourn, John | T | 6-5 | 310 | 03/30/1976 | 7 | California |
| 62 | Wiegmann, Casey | C | 6-2 | 285 | 07/20/1973 | 9 | Iowa |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 22 | Brown, Dee | RB | 5-10 | 215 | 05/12/1978 | 4 | Syracuse |
| 42 | Cruz, Ronnie | RB | 6-0 | 237 | 06/11/1981 | 1 | Northern State |
| 34 | Griffin, Quentin | RB | 5-7 | 195 | 01/12/1981 | 2 | Oklahoma |
| 31 | Holmes, Priest | RB | 5-9 | 213 | 10/07/1973 | 9 | Texas |
| 27 | Johnson, Larry | RB | 6-1 | 230 | 11/19/1979 | 3 | Penn State |
| 35 | Smith, McKenzi | RB | 5-8 | 196 | 10/19/1981 | 0 | Washington State |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 89 | Dunn, Jason | TE | 6-6 | 274 | 11/15/1973 | 9 | Eastern Kentucky |
| 83 | Gammon, Kendall | TE | 6-4 | 255 | 10/23/1968 | 14 | Pittsburg State |
| 45 | Golliday, Aaron | TE | 6-3 | 282 | 12/03/1979 | 0 | Nebraska |
| 88 | Gonzalez, Tony | TE | 6-5 | 251 | 02/27/1976 | 9 | California |
| 82 | Hall, Dante | WR | 5-8 | 187 | 09/20/1978 | 6 | Texas A&M |
| 9 | Hill, Darrell | WR | 6-3 | 200 | 06/19/1979 | 3 | Northern Illinois |
| 87 | Kennison, Eddie | WR | 6-1 | 201 | 01/20/1973 | 10 | LSU |
| 14 | McIntyre, Jeris | WR | 6-0 | 203 | 07/04/1981 | 0 | Auburn |
| 18 | Parker, Samie | WR | 5-11 | 190 | 03/25/1981 | 2 | Oregon |
| 12 | Thorpe, Craphonso | WR | 6-1 | 188 | 06/27/1983 | 0 | Florida State |
| 84 | Wilson, Kris | TE | 6-2 | 251 | 08/22/1981 | 2 | Pittsburgh |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 69 | Allen, Jared | DE | 6-6 | 265 | 04/03/1982 | 2 | Idaho State |
| 93 | Browning, John | DT | 6-5 | 297 | 09/30/1973 | 9 | West Virginia |
| 75 | Dalton, Lional | DT | 6-1 | 315 | 02/21/1975 | 8 | Eastern Michigan |
| 95 | Edwards, Ron | DT | 6-3 | 320 | 07/12/1979 | 5 | Texas A&M |
| 71 | Freeman, Eddie | DT | 6-5 | 315 | 01/04/1978 | 2 | UAB |
| 92 | Hall, Carlos | DE | 6-4 | 259 | 01/16/1979 | 4 | Arkansas |
| 98 | Hicks, Eric | DE | 6-6 | 280 | 06/17/1976 | 8 | Maryland |
| 72 | Mitchell, Clint | DE | 6-6 | 257 | 09/21/1980 | 0 | Florida |
| 94 | Siavii, Junior | DT | 6-5 | 336 | 11/14/1978 | 2 | Oregon |
| 90 | Sims, Ryan | DT | 6-4 | 315 | 05/04/1980 | 4 | North Carolina |
| 64 | Ville, Zach | DE | 6-2 | 275 | 04/24/1982 | 0 | Missouri |
| 96 | Wilkerson, Jimmy | DE | 6-2 | 280 | 01/04/1981 | 3 | Oklahoma |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 24 | Bartee, William | S | 6-1 | 200 | 06/25/1977 | 6 | Oklahoma |
| 26 | Battle, Julian | CB | 6-2 | 205 | 07/11/1981 | 2 | Tennessee |
| 41 | Connot, Scott | S | 6-3 | 216 | 06/24/1981 | 1 | South Dakota St. |
| 46 | Garrett, Kevin | CB | 5-10 | 194 | 07/29/1980 | 2 | SMU |
| 47 | Hodge, Alphonso | CB | 5-11 | 203 | 05/30/1982 | 0 | Miami (OH) |
| 39 | Johnson, Chris | CB | 5-11 | 198 | 09/25/1979 | 1 | Louisville |
| 29 | Knight, Sammy | S | 6-1 | 215 | 09/10/1975 | 9 | USC |
| 20 | Sapp, Benny | CB | 5-9 | 190 | 01/20/1981 | 2 | Northern Iowa |
| 23 | Surtain, Patrick | CB | 5-11 | 195 | 06/19/1976 | 8 | Southern Miss |
| 43 | Walls, Lenny | CB | 6-4 | 195 | 09/26/1979 | 4 | Boston College |
| 25 | Wesley, Greg | S | 6-2 | 206 | 03/19/1978 | 6 | Ark.-Pine Bluff |
| 21 | Woods, Jerome | S | 6-3 | 205 | 03/17/1973 | 9 | Memphis |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 99 | Bell, Kendrell | LB | 6-1 | 245 | 07/02/1980 | 5 | Georgia |
| 97 | Fox, Keyaron | LB | 6-3 | 235 | 01/24/1982 | 2 | Georgia Tech |
| 53 | Griffin, Kris | LB | 6-3 | 232 | 05/27/1981 | 1 | Indiana (PA) |
| 51 | Grigsby, Boomer | LB | 5-11 | 249 | 11/15/1981 | 1 | Illinois State |
| 56 | Johnson, Derrick | LB | 6-2 | 242 | 11/22/1982 | 1 | Texas |
| 50 | Mitchell, Kawika | LB | 6-1 | 253 | 10/10/1979 | 3 | South Florida |
| 55 | Scanlon, Rich | LB | 6-2 | 249 | 12/23/1980 | 2 | Syracuse |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 2 | Colquitt, Dustin | P | 6-1 | 191 | 05/06/1982 | 1 | Tennessee |
| 1 | Tynes, Lawrence | K | 6-1 | 202 | 05/03/1978 | 2 | Troy |

2005 RECORD: 9-7 www.chargers.com

# SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

AFC WEST #3

QUALCOMM STADIUM
CAPACITY: 71,500 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 877-CHARGERS

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 2 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 5 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| LINEBACKERS | 5 |
| SECONDARY | 2 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 2 |
| MANAGEMENT | 2 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Philip Rivers | LE | Luis Castillo | P | Mike Scifres |
| FB | Lorenzo Neal | DT | Jamal Williams | PR | Darren Sproles |
| RB | LaDainian Tomlinson | RE | Igor Olshansky | K | Nate Kaeding |
| LT | Marcus McNeill | OLB | Shawne Merriman | KR | Darren Sproles |
| LG | Kris Dielman | ILB | Donnie Edwards | | |
| C | Nick Hardwick | ILB | Randall Godfrey | | |
| RG | Mike Goff | OLB | Steve Foley | | |
| RT | Shane Olivea | LCB | Quentin Jammer | | |
| TE | Antonio Gates | RCB | Drayton Florence | | |
| WR | Keenan McCardell | SS | Marlon McCree | | |
| WR | Eric Parker | FS | Bhawoh Jue | | |

**ON THE RISE**

**SHAWNE MERRIMAN**
linebacker
Exploded onto the scene as a rookie; could be a 20-sack threat this year.

**FADING FAST**

**ROMAN OBEN**
offensive tackle
He gave the Chargers a couple of decent seasons at left tackle, but now it's time to go.

# Too charged up?

After letting their QB fly away in the Brees, the Chargers look to Philip Rivers to right a ship that too often creates its own waves.

Most teams don't let the franchise quarterback walk away.

But the San Diego Chargers are not most teams.

Most teams try not to let the bickering between the general manager and the coach escape the facility doors.

The Chargers are not most teams.

Most teams try to make it look like they are improving their roster and gearing up for a playoff run, not stripping down and trying to get the coach fired.

The Chargers are not most teams.

The fun in the sun never stops. If ESPN ever staged a "Hard Heads" competition, Chargers General Manager A.J. Smith and Coach Marty Schottenheimer could meet in the final. All they'd need is antlers and they would battle like bull moose in the forest primeval.

That sort of stuff tends to end badly. It still may.

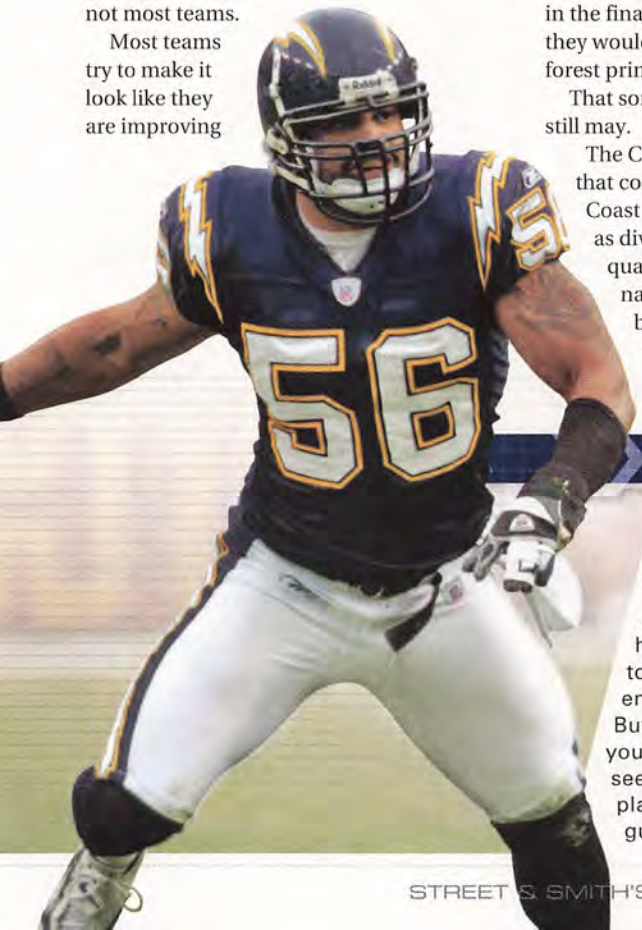
The Chargers, playing a brutal schedule that continually flew them to the East Coast last year, could not repeat either as division champions or playoff qualifiers. A spate of early defeats by narrow margins put them too far back in the AFC West, where a 10-win team, the Kansas City Chiefs, also missed the playoffs.

They lost on a blocked field-goal try in Philadelphia and on a late field goal against Pittsburgh at home. They rallied from an 0-2 start, but that's also the way they came home. Exhausted at the end, they scored only two touchdowns in their final two games, both losses to AFC West teams.

In that last game—said to be meaningless—much meaning was found. Schottenheimer elected not to play Philip Rivers at quarterback and stayed with Drew Brees, even though there was no value in exposing Brees and plenty in getting a look at Rivers. The Denver Broncos, trying to go into the postseason on a high, crushed the Chargers and changed their future by crinkling Brees.

The resulting shoulder injury to their franchise player made the Chargers think hard. Would they franchise him again and hope he would be ready to play, and that he would do so again on a one-year deal? Should they go long-term? Or move on?

Now Brees wears the fleur de lis of the New Orleans Saints and the Chargers, for better or worse, will start Rivers, the quarterback they acquired when Eli Manning spurned them two years ago. Brees exited



## THE BOOK ON ... SHAWNE MERRIMAN

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Size, athletic ability, strength, power, explosion. Merriman has it all. The sky's the limit for him. He has the physical skills to take a game over on defense. He's got Lawrence Taylor-like qualities. Now I'm not saying he's LT, because LT's done it. But if you're going to say, 'Who has a chance to do LT things?' Well, this guy does. If there's a hole in his game, it's experience and that's it. He was a rookie last year and he didn't start right away. But that's the only hole. He got lots of playing time later in the season and you could see the impact he made. He's coachable, disciplined and you don't see him doing the things that LaVar Arrington did as a young guy. He couldn't play within the system and that's why he's not in Washington anymore. This guy has no problem doing what he's asked."

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TOP TO BOTTOM: STAN LIU / US PRESSWIRE; DIAMOND IMAGES

## FACT

With a point differential of plus-106, the 2005 Chargers were the second team in the last 14 seasons to miss the playoffs despite having a margin of plus-100 or better. The 2004 Bills missed the postseason despite having a plus-111 point differential.

## STAT

LaDainian Tomlinson has scored 80 touchdowns in 79 regular-season games, or 1.01 per game. The other players in NFL history (min. 50 games) to average at least a touchdown per game are Jim Brown (1.07) and Shaun Alexander (1.04).

## LOOK IT UP

Since 1984, only three quarterbacks have been selected in the first round of the NFL Draft and not started a game in either their draft year or the following season: Dave Brown, Chad Pennington and Philip Rivers.

## 5-YEAR WINS

## CHARGERS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **SID GILLMAN** (11 YEARS)
   **Record with Chargers:** 87-57-6
2. **DON CORYELL** (9 YEARS)
   **Record with Chargers:** 72-60
3. **BOBBY ROSS** (5 YEARS)
   **Record with Chargers:** 50-36

## THE COUNT

**2-7**
San Diego's record since Christmas 2004 in games decided by six points or fewer (including postseason).

**19**
Red-zone TD catches by Antonio Gates over the last two seasons, most in the NFL over that span.

**153.3**
LaDainian Tomlinson's passer rating on his seven career attempts (four have been TD strikes).

## DRAFT REPORT

as a free agent and the Chargers got nothing for him. Ah, they have their memories. And now they have their future.

Rivers, the son of a coach, has a great mind for the game. His physical attributes have hardly had a look in his two pro seasons, which, unfortunately for him, corresponded with Brees' comeback from the brink of oblivion. He's not a big-armed bomber inclined to gamble downfield, but that's OK in an offense where the tight end is the first option and the running back catches lots of balls as well.

What Rivers lacks is experience. He'll get that through on-the-job training.

He'll have LaDainian Tomlinson to help him, and that's no small thing. Tomlinson scored 18 rushing touchdowns last year, two more on receptions, and also threw a touchdown pass. Yeah, triple threat. He's worth 300-350 rushes a season and he'll catch 50-60 passes. Everything he does is something Rivers won't have to. He is ably aided in the backfield by fullback Lorenzo Neal, one of the game's outstanding blockers.

Rivers would find his lot in life improved if the Chargers receivers were, too. Tight end Antonio Gates is the best in the business. For a young passer, a tight end down the seam is like mother's milk. Drink hearty, Philip. Keenan McCardell is ageless—OK, he's not ageless, he's 36. That makes him a tad elderly to be doing this and the Chargers would like to see Eric Parker stepping up. They signed him to an extension and their expectations are high. There's not a lot of depth after these guys. Don't expect much from Rashaun Woods, acquired from San Francisco in a trade. The 49ers have no receivers and they let a former first-round pick go?

The offensive line is probably going to need at least a little bit of help at left tackle. If Roman Oben (foot injury) can

Although not a sure thing, with just one career start as a collegian, **Antonio Cromartie** was added in the first round to upgrade a poor pass defense. **Marcus McNeill** has tremendous size, but slipped some following a disappointing senior season due to concerns regarding his back. He will be groomed to replace aging Roman Oben at left tackle. In a bit of a surprise, **Charlie Whitehurst** was selected in the third to back up Philip Rivers. **Tim Dobbins** works hard and was productive on the college level. He fits well in San Diego's 3-4 scheme. **Jeromey Clary** and **Jimmy Martin** are second-day pure tackles who will likely spend their rookie seasons on the practice squad. Placekicker **Kurt Smith** was a throw-away pick late in the sixth. **Chase Page** has size and speed and will provide depth at the two defensive-end positions. Tight end Brandon Manumaleuna was acquired from the Rams for draft choices. A speed receiver and more help in the secondary would have helped the Chargers' final grade.

**GRADE: C**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 19 | Cromartie, Antonio | CB | 6-2 | 207 | Florida State |
| 2 | 18 | McNeill, Marcus | T | 6-7 | 337 | Auburn |
| 3 | 17 | Whitehurst, Charlie | QB | 6-5 | 222 | Clemson |
| 5 | 18 | Dobbins, Tim | LB | 6-1 | 247 | Iowa State |
| 6 | 18 | Clary, Jeromey | T | 6-6 | 304 | Kansas State |
| 6 | 19 | Smith, Kurt | K | 6-0 | 180 | Virginia |
| 7 | 17 | Page, Chase | DT | 6-4 | 285 | North Carolina |
| 7 | 19 | Martin, Jimmy | C | 6-4 | 303 | Virginia Tech |

## HE SAID IT:

**"It's hard to put into words, because it really is a feeling more than anything else, but, yeah, I think you do carry yourself a little different when you're the starter."**
*—quarterback Philip Rivers on finally becoming a starter for the Chargers*

## 2006 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** @ Oakland
SEPT. 11 — 10:15 — SCORE

**WEEK 2** vs. Tennessee
SEPT. 17 — 4:15 — SCORE

**WEEK 3** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 4** @ Baltimore
OCT. 1 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 5** vs. Pittsburgh
OCT. 8 — 8:15 — SCORE

**WEEK 6** @ San Francisco
OCT. 15 — 4:15 — SCORE

**WEEK 7** @ Kansas City
OCT. 22 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 8** vs. St. Louis
OCT. 29 — 4:05 — SCORE

**WEEK 9** vs. Cleveland
NOV. 5 — 4:15 — SCORE

**WEEK 10** @ Cincinnati
NOV. 12 — 1:00
★ MUST-SEE GAME ★
*If the Chargers are still alive at this point, this could be a make-or-break game for them and their young quarterback.*
SCORE

**WEEK 11** @ Denver
NOV. 19 — 4:15 — SCORE

**WEEK 12** vs. Oakland
NOV. 26 — 4:05 — SCORE

**WEEK 13** @ Buffalo
DEC. 3 — 1:00 — SCORE

**WEEK 14** vs. Denver
DEC. 10 — 4:15 — SCORE

**WEEK 15** vs. Kansas City
DEC. 17 — 4:05 — SCORE

**WEEK 16** @ Seattle
DEC. 24 — 4:15 — SCORE

**WEEK 17** vs. Arizona
DEC. 31 — 4:15 — SCORE

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | L | 24-28 | Dallas |
| 09/18 | L | 17-20 | at Denver |
| 09/25 | W | 45-23 | New York Giants |
| 10/02 | W | 41-17 | at New England |
| 10/10 | L | 22-24 | Pittsburgh |
| 10/16 | W | 27-14 | at Oakland |
| 10/23 | L | 17-20 | at Philadelphia |
| 10/30 | W | 28-20 | Kansas City |
| 11/06 | W | 31-26 | at New York Jets |
| 11/20 | W | 48-10 | Buffalo |
| 11/27 | W | 23-17 | at Washington |
| 12/04 | W | 34-10 | Oakland |
| 12/11 | L | 21-23 | Miami |
| 12/18 | W | 26-17 | at Indianapolis |
| 12/24 | L | 7-20 | at Kansas City |
| 12/31 | L | 7-23 | Denver |

WON **9**, LOST **7**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tomlinson | 339 | 1462 | 4.3 | 62 | 18 |
| Turner | 57 | 335 | 5.9 | 83t | 3 |
| Neal | 29 | 98 | 3.4 | 9 | 0 |
| Parker | 4 | 55 | 13.8 | 30 | 0 |
| Sproles | 8 | 50 | 6.3 | 21 | 0 |
| Brees | 21 | 49 | 2.3 | 9 | 1 |
| Caldwell | 2 | 10 | 5.0 | 7 | 0 |
| McCardell | 2 | 6 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| Osgood | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4 | 0 |
| Pinnock | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4 | 0 |
| Rivers | 1 | -1 | -1.0 | -1 | 0 |
| **Chargers** | **465** | **2072** | **4.5** | **83t** | **22** |
| **Opponents** | **386** | **1349** | **3.5** | **46** | **14** |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gates | 89 | 1101 | 12.4 | 38 | 10 |
| McCardell | 70 | 917 | 13.1 | 54 | 9 |
| Parker | 57 | 725 | 12.7 | 49 | 3 |
| Tomlinson | 51 | 370 | 7.3 | 41 | 2 |
| Caldwell | 28 | 352 | 12.6 | 43 | 1 |
| Neal | 24 | 145 | 6.0 | 21 | 1 |
| Peelle | 11 | 38 | 3.5 | 11 | 1 |
| Jackson | 3 | 59 | 19.7 | 21 | 0 |
| Sproles | 3 | 10 | 3.3 | 6 | 0 |
| Osgood | 2 | 21 | 10.5 | 15 | 0 |
| **Chargers** | **338** | **3738** | **11.1** | **54** | **27** |
| **Opponents** | **338** | **3888** | **11.5** | **56** | **20** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brees | 500 | 323 | 3576 | 24 | 15 |
| Rivers | 22 | 12 | 115 | 0 | 1 |
| Tomlinson | 4 | 3 | 47 | 3 | 0 |
| **Chargers** | **526** | **338** | **3738** | **27** | **16** |
| **Opponents** | **567** | **338** | **3888** | **20** | **10** |

**SACKS**

Merriman 10, Phillips 7, Foley 4.5, Scott 4.5, Castillo 3.5, Edwards 3, Olshansky 3, Leber 2, Cooper 1.5, Cesaire 1, Davis 1, Fletcher 1, Godfey 1, Harris 1, Kiel 1, Wilhelm 1

**Chargers 46, Opponents 31**

GREGORY R. BANNER / WIRE IMAGE.COM

come back, he'll still be on the wrong side of 30 and in decline. Maybe rookie Marcus McNeill can be the guy. Otherwise, this is a solid-enough group, with the inside people adept at opening cracks for Tomlinson inside and quick enough to get outside when the Chargers attack the perimeter.

The defense is a weird amalgam of the good and the near-great in the front seven, while a virtual shambles in the secondary. The Chargers led the NFL in rushing defense but were 28th against the pass. It is awfully frustrating to set up second-and-long or third-and-long by stuffing the run, only to give away the yardage and a fresh set of downs when defending the pass. Despite years of drafting cornerbacks and signing free-agent safeties, the Chargers haven't quite found the formula yet. To get the aforementioned Woods from the 49ers, they parted with cornerback Sammy Davis, himself a former first-round pick.

Quentin Jammer and Drayton Florence return as the starting cornerbacks and between them last year they had only two of the Chargers' preposterously low 10 interceptions. Rookie Antonio Cromartie will get a long look, but he missed all of the '05 season at Florida State with a knee injury. The addition of Marlon McCree from Carolina gives the Chargers some options—they can play him at free safety ahead of Bhawoh Jue (knee problem) or they can shift him to the strongside and ditch Terrence Kiel. If Jue is whole, that's the likely scenario.

Shawne Merriman highlights the linebackers group. A rookie Pro Bowl pick, he had 10 sacks and combines speed and power in his pass rush and his pursuit. He's the constant of tomorrow. Elsewhere, there is some change. Ben Leber left as a free agent and Smith wants to trade Donnie Edwards, who is 33 and becoming a bit too expensive. Steve Foley will hang on to the outside spot. Edwards was always around the football in his prime, but has started making his tackles further and further downfield. Maybe Matt Wilhelm steps in here or the Chargers make another move before opening day.

The front is pretty good. Jamal Williams, the 350-pound nose tackle, swallows blockers. Any decent 3-4 requires a player like this. He's among the best at tying up the interior and allowing the linebackers to flow to the ball.

Luis Castillo started as a rookie and will do so again at left end. Igor Olshansky, at right end, has to bring more pressure as a pass rusher.

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Chargers)*

"I think this whole thing is going to revolve around [LaDainian] Tomlinson. For all intents and purposes, they've gone to a rookie quarterback and I don't care that he has been in the league for three years. He's a rookie in terms of play time. They're going to go back to 'Martyball'—Tomlinson, Tomlinson, Tomlinson, throw it to Antonio Gates. Tomlinson, Tomlinson, Tomlinson, throw it to Keenan McCardell. They'll do it until Philip Rivers shows he can expand the passing game. ...

"Their front seven is what's going to make them go and that's going to revolve around Shawne Merriman and what type of force he can be. They need to shore up the secondary. Their defense is going to have to carry their offense and Tomlinson is going to have to carry their offense until the quarterback can tell us if he can play or not. I think it's a 50-50 proposition."

DeQuincy Scott, who was all right as a situational rusher, is gone.

The Chargers have to find a way to get the football away from their opponents. They had 20 takeaways in 2005 and only two teams—Houston (16) and New Orleans (19)—were worse. They were minus-eight in turnover differential.

Neither Parker nor Darren Sproles had success returning punts last year. Sproles was a rookie and might get another shot. He's one of those undersized pinball types, but he averaged a meager six yards per return. He was much more comfortable handling kickoffs. He fielded 63 and averaged 24.3 yards per return.

Mike Scifres is a good young punter with the ability to drop the ball inside the opponents' 20-yard line. Kicker Nate Kaeding does not seem to have enough range when he is attempting field goals. He missed only three kicks last year and all of them were in the 40-49-yard range. For a team that was in so many close games—San Diego's first five losses were by a combined 14 points—a missed field goal may well be the difference between victory and defeat.

Much of what the Chargers will do this season hinges on Rivers. Opposing teams certainly will load up against Tomlinson and dare the young quarterback to beat them. Rivers may need to throw often on the early downs, shrug off his failures and force defenses to respect him and the passing game so that Tomlinson can get his yards.

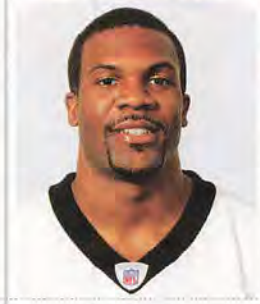
Schottenheimer loosened his grip on the offense a year ago and Brees threw the ball 500 times. He may not want to be so free and easy with Rivers out there, but he's going to have to get defenses out of eight-man fronts if the Chargers are to run the ball.

It doesn't look as if Smith did Schottenheimer too many favors in the offseason and their viewpoints still don't dovetail. Smith has clearly positioned himself as the one calling the shots. He dealt the cards and Schottenheimer must play them.

Given the QB situation, it's hard to picture the Chargers improving much over where they were a year ago. They sneaked up on people two years back when they won 12 games, but a tough schedule broke them down in 2005. They're not quite ready to move forward, and Schottenheimer might pay the price for that.

COURTESY NFL

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS



- **Marlon McCree**, DB (CAR)
- **Aaron Shea**, TE (CLE)
- **Rashaun Woods**, WR (trade, SF)
- **Andre Lott**, DB (WAS)
- **Brandon Manumaleuna**, TE (trade, STL)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Drew Brees**, QB (NO)
- **Ben Leber**, LB (MIN)
- **Bob Hallen**, C (CLE)
- **Reche Caldwell**, WR (NE)
- **Justin Peelle**, TE (MIA)
- **DeQuincy Scott**, DE (MIN)
- **Courtney Van Buren**, OG (DET)
- **Sammy Davis**, CB (trade, SF)
- **Jamar Fletcher**, DB (DET)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 347.9 | 10 |
| Rushing | 129.5 | 9 |
| Passing | 218.4 | 12 |
| Scoring | 418 | 5 |
| Punt Returns | 6.3 | 26t |
| Kick Returns | 24.2 | 5t |
| Red Zone TD % | 70.0 | 2 |
| Total Defense | 309.2 | 13 |
| Against Rush | 84.3 | 1 |
| Against Pass | 224.9 | 28 |
| Points Allowed | 312 | 13 |
| Interceptions | 10 | 26t |
| Sacks | 46 | 5t |
| Turnover Diff. | -8 | 25t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 337 | 116 | 191 | 30 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | 280 | 35 | 12 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 22 | 27 | 0 | 2 |

## CHARGERS ROSTER

**Marty Schottenheimer, head coach**; **Cam Cameron**, off. coord.; **Wade Phillips**, def. coord.; **Rob Chudzinski**, tight ends; **Steve Crosby**, special teams; **James Lofton**, wide receivers; **Greg Manusky**, linebackers; **Jack Henry**, off. line; **Wayne Nunnely**, def. line; **John Ramsdell**, quarterbacks; **Clarence Shelmon**, running backs; **Brian Stewart**, secondary; **John Pagano**, asst. linebackers; **Hal Hunter**, asst. off line

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | Feeley, A.J. | QB | 6-3 | 220 | 05/16/1977 | 3 | Oregon |
| 17 | Rivers, Philip | QB | 6-5 | 228 | 12/08/1981 | 2 | N.C. State |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 50 | Binn, David | C | 6-3 | 223 | 02/06/1972 | 12 | California |
| 68 | Dielman, Kris | G | 6-4 | 310 | 02/03/1981 | 3 | Indiana |
| 79 | Goff, Mike | G | 6-5 | 311 | 01/06/1976 | 8 | Iowa |
| 61 | Hardwick, Nick | C | 6-4 | 295 | 09/12/1981 | 2 | Purdue |
| 69 | Johnson, Ben | T | 6-6 | 329 | 04/07/1980 | 0 | Wisconsin |
| 75 | Jordan, Leander | T | 6-4 | 320 | 09/15/1977 | 4 | Indiana (PA) |
| 71 | Lekkerkerker, Cory | T | 6-7 | 324 | 07/25/1981 | 0 | UC Davis |
| 63 | Mruczkowski, Scott | C | 6-5 | 318 | 04/05/1982 | 1 | Bowling Green |
| 72 | Oben, Roman | T | 6-4 | 305 | 10/09/1972 | 10 | Louisville |
| 70 | Olivea, Shane | T | 6-4 | 312 | 10/07/1981 | 2 | Ohio State |
| 60 | Sims, Wes | G | 6-4 | 317 | 04/08/1981 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 32 | Croom, Larry | RB | 5-10 | 205 | 10/29/1981 | 1 | UNLV |
| 41 | Neal, Lorenzo | RB | 5-11 | 255 | 12/27/1970 | 13 | Fresno State |
| 26 | Perkins, Ray | RB | 5-11 | 198 | 11/06/1982 | 0 | SE Louisiana |
| 34 | Pinnock, Andrew | RB | 5-10 | 250 | 03/12/1980 | 3 | South Carolina |
| 43 | Sproles, Darren | RB | 5-6 | 181 | 06/20/1983 | 1 | Kansas State |
| 21 | Tomlinson, LaDainian | RB | 5-10 | 221 | 06/23/1979 | 5 | TCU |
| 33 | Turner, Michael | RB | 5-10 | 237 | 02/13/1982 | 2 | Northern Illinois |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 82 | Camarillo, Greg | WR | 6-2 | 195 | 04/18/1982 | 0 | Stanford |
| 80 | Floyd, Malcom | WR | 6-5 | 201 | 09/08/1981 | 1 | Wyoming |
| 85 | Gates, Antonio | TE | 6-4 | 260 | 06/18/1980 | 3 | Kent State |
| 83 | Jackson, Vincent | WR | 6-5 | 241 | 01/14/1983 | 1 | Northern Colorado |
| 89 | Krause, Ryan | TE | 6-3 | 256 | 06/16/1981 | 2 | Nebraska-Omaha |
| 49 | Manumaleuna, Brandon | TE | 6-2 | 288 | 01/04/1980 | 5 | Arizona |
| 87 | McCardell, Keenan | WR | 6-1 | 191 | 01/06/1970 | 14 | UNLV |
| 81 | Osgood, Kassim | WR | 6-5 | 220 | 05/20/1980 | 3 | San Diego State |
| 88 | Parker, Eric | WR | 6-0 | 180 | 04/14/1979 | 4 | Tennessee |
| 84 | Shea, Aaron | TE | 6-3 | 248 | 12/05/1976 | 6 | Michigan |
| 86 | Woods, Rashaun | WR | 6-2 | 205 | 10/17/1980 | 1 | Oklahoma State |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 97 | Bingham, Ryon | DT | 6-3 | 303 | 06/06/1981 | 1 | Nebraska |
| 93 | Castillo, Luis | DE | 6-3 | 303 | 08/04/1983 | 1 | Northwestern |
| 74 | Cesaire, Jacques | DE | 6-2 | 295 | 08/30/1980 | 3 | Southern Conn. St. |
| 99 | Olshansky, Igor | DE | 6-6 | 309 | 05/03/1982 | 2 | Oregon |
| 98 | Robinson, Derreck | DE | 6-4 | 289 | 03/03/1982 | 1 | Iowa |
| 76 | Williams, Jamal | DT | 6-3 | 350 | 04/28/1976 | 8 | Oklahoma State |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 36 | Curry, Markus | CB | 5-11 | 181 | 04/07/1981 | 0 | Michigan |
| 29 | Florence, Drayton | CB | 6-0 | 195 | 12/19/1980 | 3 | Tuskegee |
| 42 | Hart, Clinton | S | 6-0 | 205 | 07/20/1977 | 3 | Central Florida CC |
| 23 | Jammer, Quentin | CB | 6-0 | 204 | 06/19/1979 | 4 | Texas |
| 27 | Jue, Bhawoh | S | 6-0 | 200 | 05/24/1979 | 5 | Penn State |
| 48 | Kiel, Terrence | S | 5-11 | 207 | 11/24/1980 | 3 | Texas A&M |
| 24 | Lott, Andre | CB | 5-10 | 196 | 05/31/1979 | 3 | Tennessee |
| 20 | McCree, Marlon | S | 5-11 | 202 | 03/17/1977 | 5 | Kentucky |
| 31 | Milligan, Hanik | S | 6-3 | 200 | 11/03/1979 | 2 | Houston |
| 28 | Pippens, Jerrell | S | 6-2 | 195 | 06/30/1980 | 2 | Nebraska |
| 22 | Walls, Raymond | CB | 5-10 | 189 | 07/24/1979 | 5 | Southern Miss |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 54 | Cooper, Stephen | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 06/19/1979 | 3 | Maine |
| 59 | Edwards, Donnie | LB | 6-2 | 227 | 04/06/1973 | 10 | UCLA |
| 53 | Foley, Steve | LB | 6-4 | 265 | 09/11/1975 | 7 | Louisiana-Monroe |
| 94 | Gbaja-Biamila, Akbar | LB | 6-5 | 270 | 05/06/1979 | 2 | San Diego State |
| 58 | Godfrey, Randall | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 04/06/1973 | 10 | Georgia |
| 92 | Harris, Marques | LB | 6-1 | 231 | 09/20/1981 | 1 | Colorado |
| 56 | Merriman, Shawne | LB | 6-4 | 272 | 05/25/1984 | 1 | Maryland |
| 95 | Phillips, Shaun | LB | 6-3 | 262 | 05/13/1981 | 2 | Purdue |
| 52 | Polk, Carlos | LB | 6-2 | 250 | 02/22/1977 | 4 | Nebraska |
| 57 | Wilhelm, Matt | LB | 6-4 | 245 | 02/02/1981 | 3 | Ohio State |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 10 | Kaeding, Nate | K | 6-0 | 187 | 03/26/1982 | 2 | Iowa |
| 5 | Scifres, Mike | P | 6-2 | 236 | 10/08/1980 | 3 | Western Illinois |

2005 RECORD: 4-12 | www.raiders.com

# OAKLAND RAIDERS

AFC WEST #4

McAFEE COLISEUM
CAPACITY: 63,126 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 888-44-RAIDERS

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 1 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 3 |
| RECEIVERS | 4 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 2 |
| LINEBACKERS | 2 |
| SECONDARY | 3 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 2 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Aaron Brooks | LE | Bobby Hamilton | P | Shane Lechler |
| FB | Zack Crockett | LT | Tommy Kelly | PR | Chris Carr |
| RB | LaMont Jordan | RT | Warren Sapp | H | Sebastian Janikowski |
| LT | Robert Gallery | RE | Derrick Burgess | KR | Alvis Whitted |
| LG | Barry Sims | LLB | Kirk Morrison | | |
| C | Jake Grove | MLB | Danny Clark | | |
| RG | Brad Badger | RLB | Thomas Howard | | |
| RT | Langston Walker | LCB | Nnamdi Asomugha | | |
| TE | Courtney Anderson | RCB | Fabian Washington | | |
| WR | Randy Moss | SS | Michael Huff | | |
| WR | Jerry Porter | FS | Stuart Schweigert | | |

### ON THE RISE

**KIRK MORRISON**
linebacker
The third-rounder from 2005 may be Oakland's best defender now.

### FADING FAST

**WARREN SAPP**
defensive tackle
Missed a bunch of games last year, which had never before happened in his career.

# Shell of a team

Oakland's new coach will find out quickly that this bunch in silver and black has absolutely nothing in common with Raiders of years past.

It is probably fair to say that Art Shell wanted to return to coaching in the NFL in the worst way.

It is probably fair to say that he will.

Dismissed after the 1994 season by the Raiders, Shell never got another opportunity to be a head coach. Three playoff berths in five seasons apparently did not convince owners around the league that Shell, a Hall-of-Fame player, had what it took.

Now he is back with the Raiders, entrusted with the task of establishing some attitude and a connection with the Oakland market.

Well, that is where Shell played. But he coached the Raiders when they were in Los Angeles and the Oakland of today is not quite the one he once thrived in.

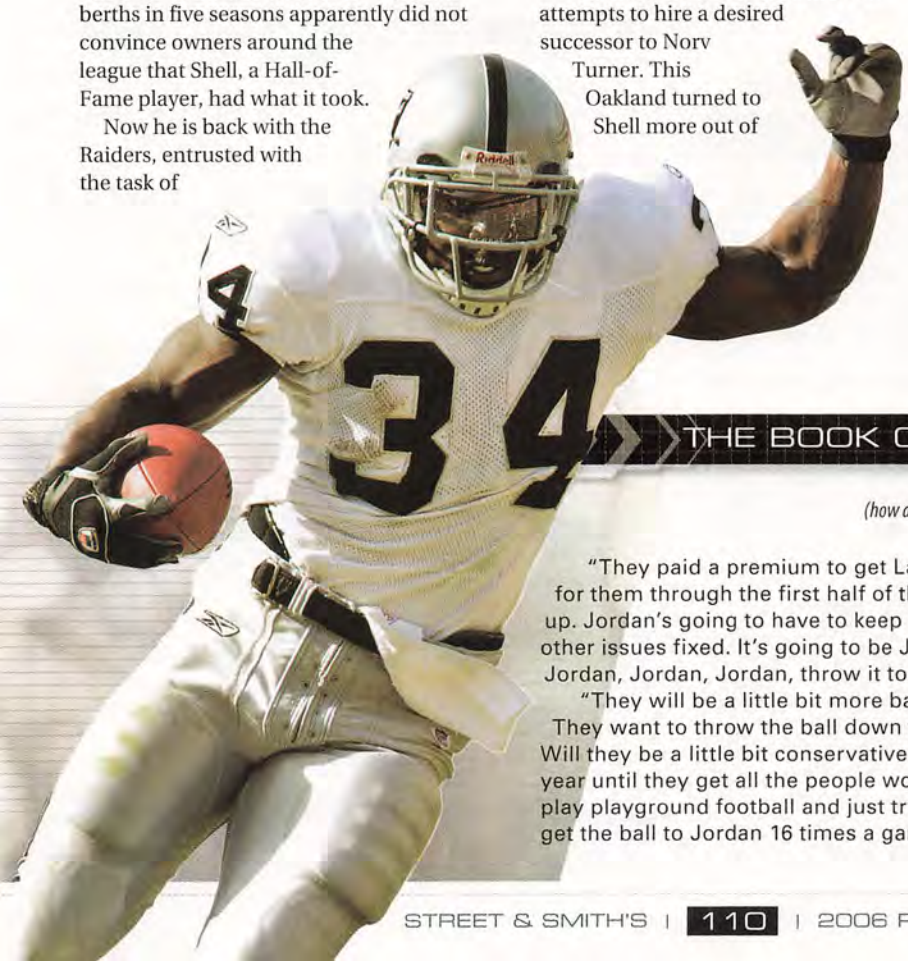
This Oakland failed in its first few attempts to hire a desired successor to Norv Turner. This Oakland turned to Shell more out of desperation than desire. This Oakland has won 13 games in the three seasons since it appeared in the Super Bowl and is now on its third coach in four years.

Forget its tradition. Forget all the slogans. The Raiders can't seem to, but the casual observer must.

Shell, who was working in the league office, returns to clean up the mess that has been made ever since owner Al Davis "traded" Jon Gruden to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for a bunch of draft picks and $8 million. Dispirited players, a lack of overall talent, no sense of how to develop the younger guys—all of this will now fall to Shell, whom Davis has said he regrets ever firing.

Maybe a reunion tour can work. Washington brought back Joe Gibbs and went to the playoffs in his second year. So perhaps there's some magic that Shell can work.

Unfortunately for him, he was not given full control the way Gibbs was with the Redskins. There's Davis to contend with and a personnel department that hasn't drafted an offensive skill-position player



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## THE BOOK ON ... LaMONT JORDAN

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"They paid a premium to get LaMont Jordan a year ago and he did pretty well for them through the first half of the season, and then the whole program blew up. Jordan's going to have to keep it together for them this year until they get their other issues fixed. It's going to be Jordan, Jordan, Jordan, throw it to [Randy] Moss. Jordan, Jordan, Jordan, throw it to [Jerry] Porter.

"They will be a little bit more ball-control, but that's really not who they are. They want to throw the ball down the field. I think the key is how they use Jordan. Will they be a little bit conservative and a little bit patient in the early part of the year until they get all the people working together? Or will they just come out and play playground football and just try to get the ball to Moss and Porter and maybe get the ball to Jordan 16 times a game?"

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

### FACT

With a fourth-place finish in the AFC West in 2005, the Raiders finished last in their division in consecutive years for the first time since 1961-62, when Oakland was a member of the American Football League.

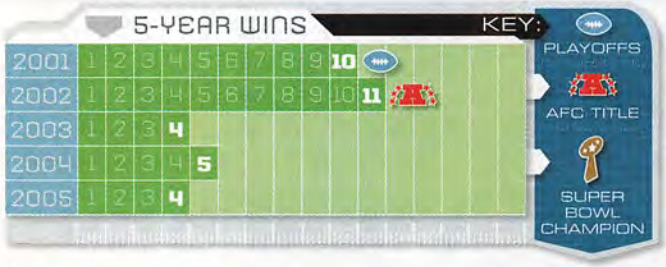
### STAT

The Raiders lost six straight games in 2005 for the first time since dropping six consecutive games to close out the 1995 season.

### LOOK IT UP

By scoring seven points in Week 15 against Cleveland and three the following week against Denver, the Raiders scored their fewest points in consecutive games since being shutout in three straight (Weeks 4-6) during the 1981 season.

### 5-YEAR WINS




### RAIDERS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. JOHN MADDEN (10 YEARS)
   **Record with Raiders:** 112-39-7
2. TOM FLORES (9 YEARS)
   **Record with Raiders:** 91-56
3. JOHN RAUCH (3 YEARS)
   **Record with Raiders:** 35-10

### THE COUNT

**1**
Points scored per turnover last season. The Raiders forced 19 turnovers in 2005, but only managed 19 points off of them.

**5**
Interceptions by the Raiders in 2005, the fewest in the league and in franchise history.

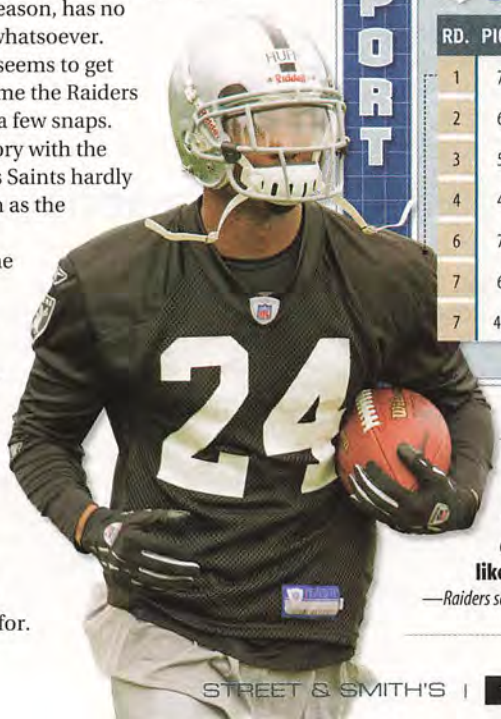
**5.6**
Yards per punt return by the Raiders last season, the worst in the NFL.

since 1996. There's a lot of negativity and a restive fan base.

The cupboard is not entirely bare. At least Shell starts off with two premier offensive players in receiver Randy Moss and running back LaMont Jordan. Moss, racked by injuries, was effective early and not so much late in '05. Jordan, caught up in the team's death spiral, was effective early and less so late. Don't forget that the Raiders were no worse than mediocre following a 16-13 overtime win at Washington. Then they lost their final six games (the only close one was 9-7 at Cleveland) and in a four-week stretch scored only 30 points.

Finding a way to keep Moss and Jerry Porter involved, while making sure Jordan gets his touches, would tax any quarterback. The Raiders will be choosing from holdovers Marques Tuisasosopo and Andrew Walter and incoming free agent Aaron Brooks at QB. Walter, going into his second season, has no experience whatsoever. Tuiasosopo seems to get hurt every time the Raiders let him take a few snaps. Brooks' history with the New Orleans Saints hardly qualifies him as the savior. He's just too prone to making mistakes at bad times.

Brooks is, however, suited to throwing the ball downfield. That's something the Raiders always look for.



PAUL MORRIS / GETTY IMAGES

## NFL DRAFT 2006 DRAFT REPORT

With an obvious need at safety, the Raiders used two of their first four picks at the position. **Michael Huff** was added in the first, while **Darnell Bing** was chosen in the fourth. The selection of Huff was a bit of a surprise, as the team passed on Matt Leinart. Bing was considered an early-second-round prospect, but slipped all the way to the fourth. Athletic outside linebacker **Thomas Howard** was added in the second round and could start as a rookie. **Paul McQuistan** is an athletic tackle who will back up Barry Sims. **Kevin Boothe** is a mauler who can play right guard or tackle. **Chris Morris** will back up center Jake Grove. Maine wideout **Kevin McMahan** was the 2006 Mr. Irrelevant as the last player chosen. Overall, a solid draft.

**GRADE: B**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | Huff, Michael | S | 6-0 | 203 | Texas |
| 2 | 6 | Howard, Thomas | LB | 6-3 | 240 | UTEP |
| 3 | 5 | McQuistan, Paul | G | 6-6 | 313 | Weber State |
| 4 | 4 | Bing, Darnell | S | 6-2 | 228 | USC |
| 6 | 7 | Boothe, Kevin | T | 6-5 | 315 | Cornell |
| 7 | 6 | Morris, Chris | C | 6-3 | 299 | Michigan State |
| 7 | 47 | McMahan, Kevin | WR | 6-2 | 196 | Maine |

### HE SAID IT:

**"Huff reminds me a lot of [Charles] Woodson when he first came in the league. He has a lot of the same mannerisms, and he's real smooth, like Woodson."**

*—Raiders safety Jarrod Cooper on first-round pick Michael Huff*

### 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 1 | vs. San Diego | |
| SEPT. 11 | 10:15 | SCORE |
| WEEK 2 | @ Baltimore | |
| SEPT. 17 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| WEEK 3 | OPEN DATE | |
| WEEK 4 | vs. Cleveland | |
| OCT. 1 | 4:15 | SCORE |
| WEEK 5 | @ San Francisco | |
| OCT. 8 | 4:05 | SCORE |
| WEEK 6 | @ Denver | |
| OCT. 15 | 8:15 | SCORE |
| WEEK 7 | vs. Arizona | |
| OCT. 22 | 4:15 | SCORE |
| WEEK 8 | vs. Pittsburgh | |
| OCT. 29 | 4:15 | SCORE |
| WEEK 9 | @ Seattle | |
| NOV. 6 | 8:30 | SCORE |
| WEEK 10 | vs. Denver | |
| NOV. 12 | 4:05 | SCORE |
| WEEK 11 | @ Kansas City | |
| NOV. 19 | 1:00 | SCORE |

★ MUST-SEE GAME ★

*This is where the Raiders' season fell apart last year in a heart-wrenching loss on the last play of the game following a controversial penalty.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 12 | @ San Diego | |
| NOV. 26 | 4:05 | SCORE |
| WEEK 13 | vs. Houston | |
| DEC. 3 | 4:05 | SCORE |
| WEEK 14 | @ Cincinnati | |
| DEC. 10 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| WEEK 15 | vs. St. Louis | |
| DEC. 17 | 4:15 | SCORE |
| WEEK 16 | vs. Kansas City | |
| DEC. 23 | 8:00 | SCORE |
| WEEK 17 | @ New York Jets | |
| DEC. 31 | 1:00 | SCORE |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/08 | L | 20-30 | at New England |
| 09/18 | L | 17-23 | Kansas City |
| 09/25 | L | 20-23 | at Philadelphia |
| 10/02 | W | 19-13 | Dallas |
| 10/16 | L | 14-27 | San Diego |
| 10/23 | W | 38-17 | Buffalo |
| 10/30 | W | 34-25 | at Tennessee |
| 11/06 | L | 23-27 | at Kansas City |
| 11/13 | L | 17-31 | Denver |
| 11/20 | W | 16-13 | at Washington |
| 11/27 | L | 21-33 | Miami |
| 12/04 | L | 10-34 | at San Diego |
| 12/11 | L | 10-26 | at New York Jets |
| 12/18 | L | 7-9 | Cleveland |
| 12/24 | L | 3-22 | at Denver |
| 12/31 | L | 21-30 | New York Giants |

WON **4**, LOST **12**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jordan | 272 | 1025 | 3.8 | 26 | 9 |
| Crockett | 60 | 208 | 3.5 | 24 | 1 |
| Whitted | 2 | 51 | 25.5 | 27 | 0 |
| Collins | 17 | 39 | 2.3 | 18t | 1 |
| Fargas | 5 | 28 | 5.6 | 15 | 0 |
| Tuiasosopo | 2 | 19 | 9.5 | 10 | 0 |
| Gabriel | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| Lechler | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Porter | 1 | -8 | -8.0 | -8 | 0 |
| **Raiders** | **361** | **1369** | **3.8** | **27** | **11** |
| **Opponents** | **507** | **2049** | **4.0** | **95t** | **18** |

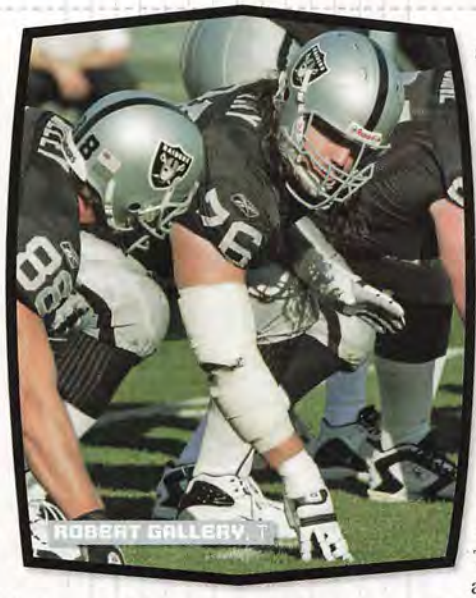
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Porter | 76 | 942 | 12.4 | 49t | 5 |
| Jordan | 70 | 563 | 8.0 | 28 | 2 |
| Moss | 60 | 1005 | 16.8 | 79 | 8 |
| Gabriel | 37 | 554 | 15.0 | 38 | 3 |
| Anderson | 24 | 303 | 12.6 | 36 | 3 |
| Whitted | 14 | 183 | 13.1 | 26 | 0 |
| Crockett | 13 | 111 | 8.5 | 23 | 0 |
| R. Williams | 13 | 164 | 12.6 | 34 | 0 |
| Foschi | 6 | 37 | 6.2 | 11 | 0 |
| Curry | 2 | 12 | 6.0 | 8 | 0 |
| Fargas | 1 | 9 | 9.0 | 9 | 0 |
| **Raiders** | **316** | **3883** | **12.3** | **79** | **21** |
| **Opponents** | **296** | **3481** | **11.8** | **78t** | **18** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Collins | 565 | 302 | 3759 | 20 | 12 |
| Tuiasosopo | 26 | 14 | 124 | 1 | 2 |
| **Raiders** | **591** | **316** | **3883** | **21** | **14** |
| **Opponents** | **486** | **296** | **3481** | **18** | **5** |

**SACKS**

Burgess 16, Sapp 5, Kelly 4.5, Hamilton 2, Jasper 2, Brayton 1, Clark 1, Gibson 1, Grant 1, Routt 1, Sands 1, Cooper 0.5

**Raiders 36, Opponents 45**




Whether he will stay in the pocket long enough to do so is an open question.

Whether he will have the protection is another. Surely his mobility will allow him to avoid some sacks that Kerry Collins could not, but the Raiders gave up 46 last year and they can't all be pinned on a lead-footed quarterback.

Robert Gallery is expected to move from right to left tackle, his more natural position, bumping Barry Sims inside to guard. Jake Grove came into the league with a reputation for being a bad actor and he has to anchor this line at center. The other guys are just guys. Ron Stone's best days are way behind him and Brad Badger is strictly a journeyman.

Moss, Porter and Doug Gabriel provide solid targets for Brooks (we assume he will win this competition). Tight end Courtney Anderson has great size but seemed to regress in the midst of the last dismal season. He has to reassert himself and develop reliable hands.

Jordan and fullback Zach Crockett make up a veteran backfield that will get a lot of work early. It is hard to imagine the Raiders, even with their bent toward the deep ball, not working Jordan nearly to death. He averaged only 3.8 yards per carry last season in his first year with the Raiders, but the team rarely had a chance to let him gain downhill yards late in games in which it had a lead. Jordan also caught 70 passes last year, but that's just gravy. This team ranked 29th in the league in rushing and that is a ticket for disaster if it happens again.

There's not a lot of tested depth in the backfield, either. The Raiders liked Justin Fargas when they drafted him, but he tore up his knee as a rookie and played very little last year.

The Oakland offense has to find ways to keep the team in games, and that would seem to mean some reliance on ball control. This will still be a big-play team, but the Raiders threw the ball 591 times and ran it 361 last year, so they will have to strike a better balance.

That pervasive not-quite-average feel slops over onto the defense. The Raiders lined up in a 3-4 in 2004 and that didn't work, especially for defensive tackle Warren Sapp. So the Raiders went back to a 4-3, brought in edge rusher Derrick Burgess and still managed to leak against the run, though Burgess led the NFL with 16 sacks.

On this side of the ball, the old players are getting older and the Raiders tipped their hand by bringing in even more senior citizens—defensive end Lance Johnstone and cornerbacks Tyrone Poole and Duane Starks. Teams do this when their young players aren't maturing into good players.

Bobby Hamilton and Tommy Kelly aren't bad against the run, so Burgess and Johnstone might be fun to watch in passing situations. Sapp, who missed the last six games of last season, vows to return to form inside, but he's 33 and going into his 12th season.

There's no one special among the linebackers. Kirk Morrison played well last year as a rookie on the outside, but he has a ways to go before Canton calls. Tyler Brayton and DeLawrence Grant swing back and forth from linebacker to defensive end. Both are 'tweeners who are comfortable in neither place. Rookie Thomas Howard should find a place to play.

The secondary is more like the linebacking corps than the D-line. It just lacks any

DEHOOG / TOM DIPACE PHOTOGRAPHY

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Raiders)*

"They've got a lot of problems. Forget about Art Shell— you could put Bill Belichick in there and I would say the same thing. They've got a quarterback issue, they've got offensive-line issues, and the only thing that cures some ills is that they have a running back in LaMont Jordan and a receiver in Randy Moss. But that's also going to create some ills because using Jordan as a go-to guy is going to affect Moss's production. ...

"On the defensive side, it's another mess. They've got holes inside at D-tackle and you wonder how much more they can get out of Warren Sapp. They have an edge rusher in Derrick Burgess, but their linebackers are very average and their secondary is very average. They have athletes, not football players. They don't have a dominating player. Charles Woodson is gone, Sapp is old. They're an old football team on both sides of the ball and they're a dysfunctional team."

special quality. This comes after the Raiders invested so many draft picks in defensive backs. In the last two years, the Raiders have traded Phillip Buchanon, let Charles Woodson walk as a free agent and wasted a first-round pick a few years back on safety Derrick Gibson. Those chickens have all come home to roost.

Fabian Washington, in his second season, starts at one corner. Nnamdi Asomugha should start the season at the other corner. The safeties, Jarrod Cooper and Stuart Schweigert, are (again) nothing special and one of them will be replaced by top pick Michael Huff. If the Raiders decide to try Huff at corner, Asomugha could get bumped to safety.

The Raiders did not score a touchdown on a punt or kickoff return last year and rookie Chris Carr averaged all of 5.5 yards per punt return. The club obviously needs to add some explosion here. The Raiders' punt coverage was also horrible, despite the presence of the game's best punter, Shane Lechler.

What is left to say about exasperating placekicker Sebastian Janikowski, who can only be relied upon to be unreliable? He was 20-of-30 on field-goal attempts last year, making him least successful of any qualifying kicker in the league. He missed five of 12 attempts from 40-49 yards and was 0-for-3 from beyond that. And this was the guy with the supposedly strong leg?

When Shell returned, he brought back Tom Walsh as offensive coordinator. Walsh, who was running a bed-and-breakfast inn in Idaho, worked for him the last time in Oakland, but hadn't coached in the NFL since.

A bed-and-breakfast in Idaho. It's where all of us may want to disappear to once we see the Raiders play. Weak in so many places and distinctly average or worse in the rest, they are not about to turn this thing around in one year. Given the short tenure of Shell's predecessors, exactly how much time does he think he has to get it done?

"Pride and Poise."

"Team of the Decades."

"Commitment to Excellence."

Those are the Raider slogans of yesterday. They are empty of meaning to today's fan. The Raiders last won a Super Bowl in 1984, have been back to one once since then and now may permanently drop anchor at the bottom of the AFC West.

FINAL GRADE: 67 STOCK STEADY REPORT

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Aaron Brooks**, QB (NO)
- **Tyrone Poole**, DB (NE)
- **Duane Starks**, CB (NE)
- **Lance Johnstone**, DE (MIN)
- **ReShard Lee**, RB (GB)
- **Rod Smart**, RB (CAR)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Ted Washington**, DT (CLE)
- **Renaldo Hill**, DB (MIA)
- **Ed Jasper**, DT (PHI)
- **Charles Woodson**, DB (GB)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 309.4 | 21t |
| Rushing | 85.6 | 29 |
| Passing | 223.9 | 10 |
| Scoring | 290 | 23 |
| Punt Returns | 5.6 | 31t |
| Kick Returns | 22.9 | 12 |
| Red Zone TD % | 46.7 | 20 |
| Total Defense | 330.8 | 27 |
| Against Rush | 128.1 | 25 |
| Against Pass | 202.7 | 18 |
| Points Allowed | 383 | 25 |
| Interceptions | 5 | 32 |
| Sacks | 36 | 18t |
| Turnover Diff. | -4 | 18 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 294 | 80 | 189 | 25 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 45 | 194 | 21 | 16 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | 21 | 0 | 1 |

## RAIDERS ROSTER

**Art Shell, head coach**; **Tom Walsh**, off. coord.; **Rob Ryan**, def. coord.; **Ted Daisher**, special teams; **Fred Biletnikoff**, wide receivers; **Willie Brown**, def. backs; **Irv Eatman**, co-off. line; **Don Martindale**, linebackers; **Jim McElwain**, quarterbacks; **Keith Millard**, def. line; **Chuck Pagano**, def. backs; **Skip Peete**, running backs; **John Shoop**, tight ends; **Darryl Sims**, asst. def. line; **Jackie Slater** co-off. line; **Lorenzo Ward**, asst. def. backs/asst. special teams

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Brooks, Aaron | QB | 6-4 | 220 | 03/24/1976 | 6 | Virginia |
| 8 | Tuiasosopo, Marques | QB | 6-1 | 220 | 03/22/1979 | 4 | Washington |
| 16 | Walter, Andrew | QB | 6-6 | 230 | 05/11/1982 | 0 | Arizona State |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 70 | Badger, Brad | T | 6-4 | 320 | 01/11/1975 | 9 | Stanford |
| 76 | Gallery, Robert | T | 6-7 | 325 | 07/26/1980 | 2 | Iowa |
| 69 | Garmon, Kelvin | G | 6-2 | 350 | 10/26/1976 | 4 | Baylor |
| 60 | Green, Roderick | T | 6-6 | 276 | 06/23/1982 | 0 | Ark.-Pine Bluff |
| 64 | Grove, Jake | C | 6-4 | 300 | 01/22/1980 | 2 | Virginia Tech |
| 71 | Hulsey, Corey | G | 6-4 | 325 | 07/26/1977 | 4 | Clemson |
| 75 | Lekkerkerker, Brad | T | 6-7 | 330 | 05/08/1978 | 1 | UC Davis |
| | Obeng, William | T | 6-6 | 307 | 04/14/1983 | 0 | San Jose State |
| 65 | Sims, Barry | T | 6-5 | 300 | 12/01/1974 | 7 | Utah |
| 78 | Slaughter, Chad | T | 6-8 | 340 | 06/04/1978 | 3 | Alcorn State |
| 68 | Spikes, Cameron | G | 6-4 | 313 | 11/06/1976 | 6 | Texas A&M |
| 62 | Treu, Adam | C | 6-5 | 300 | 06/24/1974 | 9 | Nebraska |
| 66 | Walker, Langston | T | 6-8 | 345 | 09/03/1979 | 4 | California |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 32 | Crockett, Zack | RB | 6-2 | 240 | 12/02/1972 | 11 | Florida State |
| 25 | Fargas, Justin | RB | 6-1 | 220 | 01/25/1980 | 3 | USC |
| 28 | Green, DeJuan | RB | 5-11 | 205 | 05/13/1980 | 0 | South Florida |
| 34 | Jordan, LaMont | RB | 5-10 | 230 | 11/11/1978 | 5 | Maryland |
| 39 | Smart, Rod | RB | 5-11 | 205 | 01/09/1977 | 6 | Western Kentucky |
| 45 | Tuiasosopo, Zach | RB | 6-2 | 249 | 12/19/1981 | 0 | Washington |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 47 | Adkisson, James | WR | 6-5 | 230 | 01/11/1980 | 0 | South Carolina |
| 83 | Anderson, Courtney | TE | 6-6 | 270 | 11/19/1980 | 2 | San Jose State |
| 89 | Curry, Ronald | WR | 6-2 | 210 | 05/28/1979 | 4 | North Carolina |
| 49 | Foschi, John Paul | TE | 6-4 | 270 | 05/18/1982 | 1 | Georgia Tech |
| 82 | Francis, Carlos | WR | 5-10 | 190 | 01/03/1981 | 1 | Texas Tech |
| 85 | Gabriel, Doug | WR | 6-2 | 215 | 08/27/1980 | 3 | UCF |
| 19 | Morant, Johnnie | WR | 6-4 | 215 | 12/07/1981 | 2 | Syracuse |
| 18 | Moss, Randy | WR | 6-4 | 205 | 02/13/1977 | 8 | Marshall |
| 84 | Porter, Jerry | WR | 6-2 | 220 | 07/14/1978 | 6 | West Virginia |
| 87 | Whitted, Alvis | WR | 6-0 | 185 | 09/04/1974 | 8 | N.C. State |
| 86 | Williams, Randal | WR | 6-3 | 210 | 05/21/1978 | 5 | New Hampshire |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 91 | Brayton, Tyler | DE | 6-6 | 280 | 11/20/1979 | 3 | Colorado |
| 56 | Burgess, Derrick | DE | 6-2 | 265 | 08/12/1978 | 4 | Mississippi |
| 98 | Hamilton, Bobby | DE | 6-5 | 285 | 07/01/1971 | 10 | Southern Miss |
| 77 | Hawthorne, Anttaj | DT | 6-2 | 310 | 11/15/1981 | 1 | Wisconsin |
| 94 | Huntley, Kevin | DE | 6-8 | 260 | 04/08/1982 | 0 | Kansas State |
| 96 | Irons, Grant | DE | 6-6 | 285 | 07/07/1979 | 4 | Notre Dame |
| 51 | Johnstone, Lance | DE | 6-4 | 253 | 06/11/1973 | 10 | Temple |
| 93 | Kelly, Tommy | DT | 6-5 | 300 | 12/27/1980 | 2 | Mississippi State |
| 92 | McNeal, Bryant | DE | 6-4 | 248 | 07/13/1979 | 0 | Clemson |
| 73 | Quarshie, Michael | DT | 6-3 | 285 | 11/13/1979 | 0 | Columbia |
| 90 | Sands, Terdell | DT | 6-7 | 335 | 10/31/1979 | 3 | Chattanooga |
| 99 | Sapp, Warren | DT | 6-2 | 300 | 12/19/1972 | 11 | Miami (FL) |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 21 | Asomugha, Nnamdi | CB | 6-2 | 210 | 07/06/1981 | 3 | California |
| 23 | Carr, Chris | CB | 5-10 | 180 | 04/30/1983 | 1 | Boise State |
| 40 | Cooper, Jarrod | S | 6-0 | 215 | 03/31/1978 | 5 | Kansas State |
| 36 | Gibson, Derrick | S | 6-2 | 215 | 03/22/1979 | 4 | Florida State |
| 38 | Poole, Tyrone | CB | 5-8 | 188 | 02/03/1972 | 10 | Fort Valley State |
| 26 | Routt, Stanford | CB | 6-1 | 195 | 07/23/1983 | 1 | Houston |
| 30 | Schweigert, Stuart | S | 6-1 | 210 | 06/21/1981 | 2 | Purdue |
| 22 | Starks, Duane | CB | 5-10 | 174 | 05/23/1974 | 7 | Miami (FL) |
| 27 | Washington, Fabian | CB | 5-11 | 185 | 06/09/1983 | 1 | Nebraska |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 55 | Clark, Danny | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 05/09/1977 | 6 | Illinois |
| | Cooper, Roger | LB | 6-3 | 233 | 06/04/1981 | 0 | Montana State |
| 50 | Ekejiuba, Isaiah | LB | 6-4 | 219 | 10/05/1981 | 1 | Virginia |
| 52 | Morrison, Kirk | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 02/19/1982 | 1 | San Diego State |
| 57 | Riddle, Ryan | LB | 6-2 | 260 | 07/05/1981 | 1 | California |
| 54 | Williams, Sam | LB | 6-5 | 265 | 07/28/1980 | 2 | Fresno State |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 6 | Duncan, Tim | K | 6-2 | 210 | 06/12/1979 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| 11 | Janikowski, Sebastian | K | 6-2 | 250 | 03/02/1978 | 6 | Florida State |
| | Kimball, David | K | 6-1 | 209 | 01/13/1982 | 0 | Penn State |
| 9 | Lechler, Shane | P | 6-2 | 225 | 08/07/1976 | 6 | Texas A&M |

COURTESY NFL

# NFC EAST

## Parcells and Owens aren't expected to patiently wait together, so the future is now for the Cowboys

By **Don Pierson** *Chicago Tribune*

The NFC East is a beast again—and that doesn't just mean Terrell Owens.

In moving from Philadelphia to Dallas, the contentious receiver plans to shift the balance of power in the NFC's toughest division.

The Eagles dominated before Owens got there. With him, they made it to a Super Bowl. The New York Giants and Washington Redskins got to the playoffs last year and the 9-7 Cowboys missed out.

No other division has such top-to-bottom balance, so one or two players, one or two injuries, one or two plays can make the difference. From first to worst is such a short slide in the NFC East that nobody should be surprised to finish in either spot.

Just as the Cowboys plan to turn Owens' presence into a positive, the Eagles hope to use his absence in the same way. New receivers helped both the Giants and Redskins get to the playoffs last year—Plaxico Burress in New York and Santana Moss in Washington.

Coach Bill Parcells is on another four-year plan. He got the Giants to a Super Bowl in his fourth season and the Patriots to the big game in his fourth year. This is his fourth season in Dallas.

With Drew Bledsoe at quarterback and Owens performing year-to-year, this is not a rebuilding operation. To help in tight games, the Cowboys signed former Colts placekicker Mike Vanderjagt, who could end up making as big a difference as Owens.

Mark Oct. 8 on the calendar. That's when the Cowboys take Owens back to Philadelphia for a reunion no fan will want to miss.

**PREDICTED** ORDER OF FINISH:


1 p.116

2 p.120

3 p.124

4 p.128


The Giants' ability to repeat their division title depends a lot on the progress of Eli Manning, who's still the least-experienced quarterback in the division.

If Tiki Barber keeps getting better after 30, experts will have to change their stereotypes of aging running backs. The guy was simply the best player in the division last season.

The defense was the lowest-ranked in the division and collapsed after injuries at linebacker, a position they hope free agent LaVar Arrington from Washington can help them avoid. The Redskins seemed to get along fine whether he was playing or not, so the Giants can only hope he's more asset than liability.

The Giants added the one offensive weapon in the draft that could make the most difference as a rookie. That's receiver Sinorice Moss, the little brother of Washington difference-maker Santana.

This time, Redskins owner Daniel Snyder's efforts to buy the best team might pay off. He kept Gregg Williams by making him the highest-paid defensive coordinator in the league and hired Al Saunders as the NFL's highest-paid offensive coordinator, giving coach Joe Gibbs two highly sought, talented assistants.

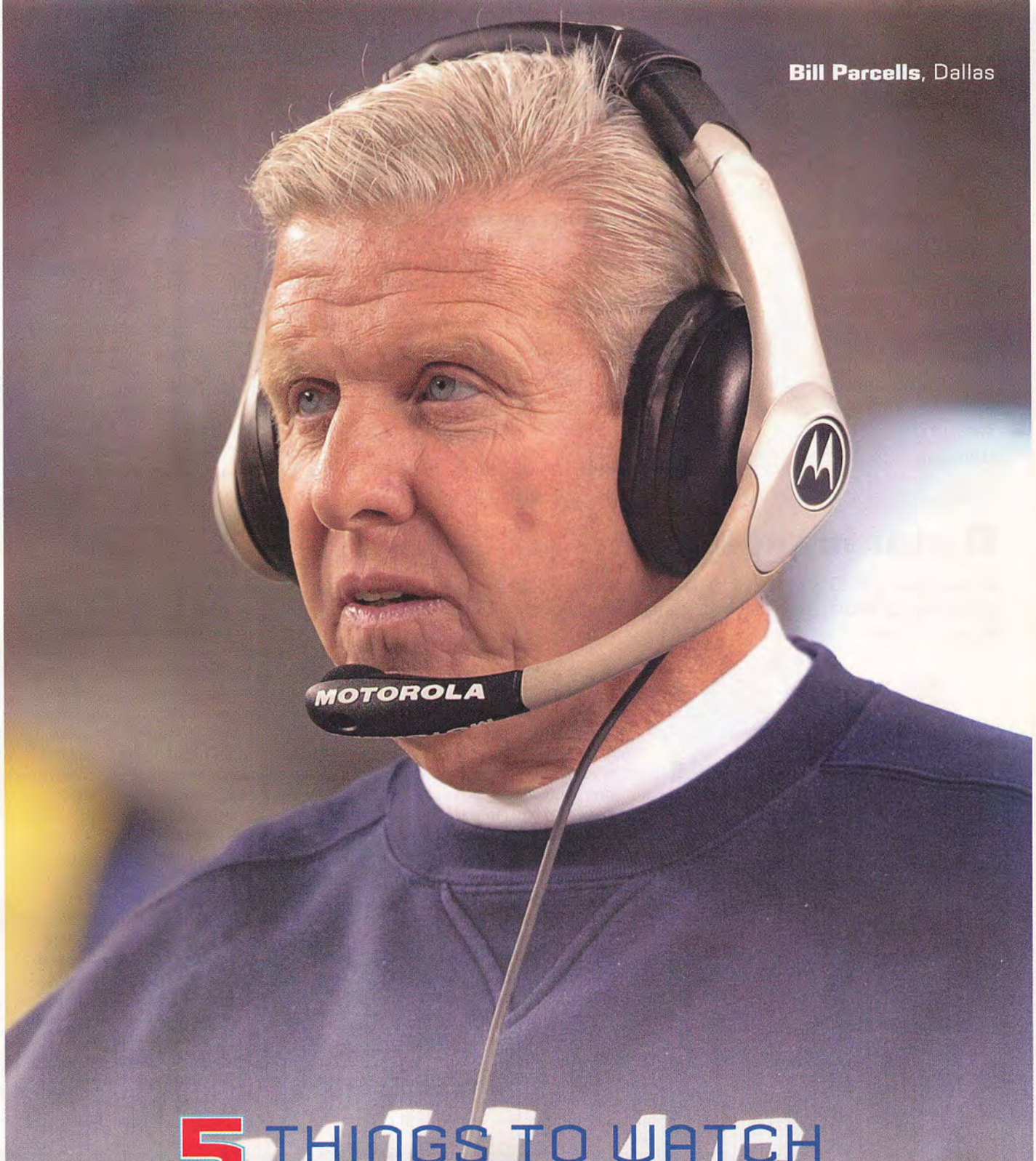
The Redskins added Brandon Lloyd and Antwaan Randle El on offense and Andre Carter and Adam Archuleta on defense. If quarterback Mark Brunell can't give them another effective season at quarterback, they hope young Jason Campbell is ready. Either way, Saunders must teach his new offense fast.

In tight races, defenses usually prevail and the Redskins have the best defense in the NFC East, assuming safety Sean Taylor clears legal hurdles in time to play.

Bouncing back from a 6-10 season is a new challenge for Philadelphia Coach Andy Reid, who is more accustomed to dealing from strength. Without the distraction of Owens, the Eagles believe they can concentrate.

Getting a healthy season from Donovan McNabb and Brian Westbrook is the first consideration in order for Reid's offense to have a chance. McNabb pointed out that the Eagles won before Owens arrived, an observation that started all the trouble between them.

On defense, coordinator Jim Johnson is hoping new defensive end Darren Howard from New Orleans will add the kind of spark up front that Jevon Kearse brought when he arrived from Tennessee.




**Bill Parcells**, Dallas

MIKE ALLEN

# 5 THINGS TO WATCH

**1** Terrell Owens' first TD celebration in Dallas. The NFL has laid down the law again. If Owens lies down and does sit-ups and costs his team 15 yards, watch the expression on Bill Parcells' face.

**2** Donovan McNabb, healthy. He's still the best quarterback in the division, Owens or no Owens. He just has to prove it all over and it won't be easy.

**3** Eli Manning, Year Three. After regressing during the second half of last season, Manning must start fast, and against brother Peyton no less.

**4** Gregg Williams' defense. If the Redskins keep playing so well on defense, can they keep coordinator Williams forever?

**5** LaVar Arrington in New York. The Giants added ex-Redskins linebacker Arrington a year after adding ex-Redskins linebacker Antonio Pierce.

2005 RECORD: 9-7 | www.dallascowboys.com

# DALLAS COWBOYS

NFC EAST #1

TEXAS STADIUM
CAPACITY: 65,595 | TURF: ARTIFICIAL | TICKETS: 214-253-6060

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 3 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 3 |
| RECEIVERS | 5 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| LINEBACKERS | 4 |
| SECONDARY | 3 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 4 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Drew Bledsoe | LE | Marcus Spears | P | Mat McBriar |
| RB | Julius Jones | NT | Jason Ferguson | PR | Skyler Green |
| LT | Flozell Adams | RE | Chris Canty | H | Mike Vanderjagt |
| LG | Kyle Kosier | OLB | Al Singleton | HR | Tyson Thompson |
| C | Al Johnson | ILB | Bradie James | | |
| RG | Marco Rivera | ILB | Akin Ayodele | | |
| RT | Jason Fabini | OLB | DeMarcus Ware | | |
| TE | Jason Witten | LCB | Terence Newman | | |
| TE | Anthony Fasano | RCB | Anthony Henry | | |
| WR | Terry Glenn | SS | Roy Williams | | |
| WR | Terrell Owens | FS | Marcus Coleman | | |

**ON THE RISE**

**DeMARCUS WARE**
linebacker
Eight sacks as a rookie and has only scratched the surface.

**FADING FAST**

**FLOZELL ADAMS**
offensive tackle
Showing signs of wear and tear and is coming off knee surgery.

# A star is reborn

Can Terrell Owens find happiness with a cranky coach and aging quarterback in Big D? Stay tuned.

When Terrell Owens stomped on the star at midfield of Texas Stadium in 2000, nobody could have imagined that one day he would be a Dallas Cowboy.

"I'm a star among stars now," Owens said after signing a three-year, $25 million contract. "I will embrace the star."

Harder to imagine is Owens being coached by Bill Parcells, until you remember Parcells usually finds ways to connect with good players regardless of personality, starting with Lawrence Taylor.

Parcells is expected to have better luck than Philadelphia's coach, Andy Reid, mainly because Owens should be on his best behavior in 2006, just as he was in his first year as an Eagle in 2004.

"Get your popcorn ready," Owens says. "It's going to be a show."

In case anyone forgot during the sideshow interruption, Owens was a pretty good receiver when last seen in uniform. At age 32 and still in great shape, Owens brings more speed and explosiveness than the man he replaces, 33-year-old Keyshawn Johnson.

Lining up opposite of dangerous deep threat Terry Glenn and with tight end Jason Witten on the inside, Owens has the capability to perform wonders—starting with transforming quarterback Drew Bledsoe back into a giddy, 21-year-old kid.

"I am excited," Bledsoe says. "I think we got better as a team. I became a better quarterback without doing anything. We got a guy who is extremely explosive."

Running back Julius Jones did not make the jump expected in his second season, not getting to the 100-yard mark until the 15th game. He missed three games with an ankle injury, fell short of 1,000 yards (993) and shared time with rookie Marion Barber. But with the added firepower of Owens, the running game should benefit. Parcells hopes Tyson Thompson will contribute more in his second season.

The offensive line is where things could get tricky for Parcells, who still hasn't assembled the kind of foundation from which most great teams are built.

Eager Cowboy fans know Parcells took the New York Giants to a Super Bowl in

## THE BOOK ON ... TERRELL OWENS

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"That's a big signing because he'll make a significant difference in their run game, too. It's a good chemistry mix because he'll help [Drew] Bledsoe. You've got to know where he is on the field. He's a game-changer. He'll win all the contested balls. He can run away from you. The only thing that hurts him is his mouth. I don't think it will be a problem as long as he feels he's an integral part of the offense. It will become a problem if Bledsoe isn't giving him his share of balls. If [Bill] Parcells is smart, like I know he is, he'll make sure T.O. gets his touches."

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TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; DAVID DRAPKIN / GETTY IMAGES

### FACT

In 2005, the Dallas defense ranked second in the NFL, allowing just 16.0 first downs per game. Only Tampa Bay (15.9) posted a better average.

### STAT

Dallas was the only NFL team last season with three receivers who each had 60 catches and 750 receiving yards: Terry Glenn (62 catches, 1,092 yards), Keyshawn Johnson (71, 839) and Jason Witten (66, 757).

### LOOK IT UP

As a rookie in 2005, Tyson Thompson set Dallas records for kickoff returns (57) and kickoff return yards (1,399) in a season. His 24.5 yards per return ranked fourth among kick returners in the NFC.

### 5-YEAR WINS

### COWBOYS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. TOM LANDRY (29 YEARS)
   **Record with Cowboys:** 271-178-6
2. JIMMY JOHNSON (5 YEARS)
   **Record with Cowboys:** 51-37
3. BARRY SWITZER (4 YEARS)
   **Record with Cowboys:** 45-26

### THE COUNT

**49**
Times Drew Bledsoe was sacked last season, the highest total among NFC quarterbacks.

**3,639**
Passing yards by Bledsoe in 2005, second most in Dallas history to Danny White's 3,980 in 1983.

**18.3**
Career-best yards per catch by Terry Glenn, the highest average in the NFC.

his fourth season (1986) and then 10 years later (1996) led the New England Patriots to a Super Bowl—in again, his fourth season with that team. What they might have forgotten is both those teams had Pro Bowl left tackles (Brad Benson in New York and Bruce Armstrong in New England) anchoring pretty solid offensive lines.

Losing former 10-time Pro Bowl guard/tackle Larry Allen to San Francisco wasn't entirely unexpected because Allen is on the backside of his career, but finding a suitable replacement quickly is another story.

Left tackle Flozell Adams is coming off a knee injury and Parcells added Jets castoff Jason Fabini, whose season was cut short by a torn left pectoral muscle injury. Allen might be on the decline, but he did start 16 games at left guard for the third year in a row. Al Johnson started all 16 at center and right guard Marco Rivera started the first 14 until sidelined by a neck injury. He's 34, only a year younger than Allen.

Rookie Rob Petitti won the right-tackle spot last season. Allen and Petitti were the only two offensive players to take every snap in 2005. However, Fabini is the projected starter this year. Who replaces Allen? The Cowboys hope it will be Kyle Kosier, a versatile journeyman signed from Detroit who won the left guard job there during last season after coming over from San Francisco.

If Andre Gurode doesn't beat out Johnson at center, he provides excellent depth at guard and center. Stephen Peterman, Cory Procter, Marc Colombo and rookies Pat McQuistan and E.J. Whitley are the reserves.

Protecting Bledsoe is crucial. He was sacked 49 times last season, the most in the NFC, and isn't getting any quicker at age 34. The Cowboys have only untested Tony Romo and Drew Henson behind him.

## NFL DRAFT 2006 DRAFT REPORT

**Bobby Carpenter**, who joined his Ohio State teammate, A.J. Hawk, in the first round, should be a solid fit opposite DeMarcus Ware, as he can rush the passer, stop the run or drop into coverage. **Anthony Fasano** excelled in the Charlie Weis offense at Notre Dame last season and is expected to team well with Jason Witten in the Cowboys' two-tight-end offense. **Jason Hatcher** is a former tight end who is coming off an impressive senior season at Grambling State. He has the size to be an effective starter in the 3-4 scheme. **Skyler Green** lacks size, but is quick and can be an effective kick returner. **Pat Watkins** is a free safety who excels in coverage, but struggles when coming up in run support. **Montavious Stanley** is a strong widebody inside who could develop into a starting nose tackle. Offensive tackle **Pat McCoy** and C/OT **E.J. Whitley** will need time to develop. This was not a flashy draft, but it could produce as many as four future starters.

GRADE: **B-**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 18 | Carpenter, Bobby | LB | 6-3 | 255 | Ohio State |
| 2 | 21 | Fasano, Anthony | TE | 6-4 | 258 | Notre Dame |
| 3 | 28 | Hatcher, Jason | DE | 6-6 | 283 | Grambling State |
| 4 | 28 | Green, Skyler | WR | 5-9 | 191 | LSU |
| 5 | 5 | Watkins, Pat | S | 6-5 | 212 | Florida State |
| 6 | 13 | Stanley, Montavious | DT | 6-2 | 314 | Louisville |
| 7 | 3 | McQuistan, Pat | T | 6-5 | 310 | Weber State |
| 7 | 16 | Whitley, E.J. | C | 6-5 | 301 | Texas Tech |

### HE SAID IT:

**I'm going to put those things behind me. They can only make a man stronger, wiser. For me, that's what it's done. I'll be a better teammate, a better person, a better man in life.**

*—volatile Terrell Owens on joining the Cowboys*

## 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 1** @ Jacksonville | SEPT. 10 | 4:15 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 2** vs. Washington | SEPT. 17 | 8:15 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 3** *OPEN DATE* | | |
| **WEEK 4** @ Tennessee | OCT. 1 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 5** @ Philadelphia | OCT. 8 | 4:15 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 6** vs. Houston | OCT. 15 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 7** vs. New York Giants | OCT. 23 | 8:30 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 8** @ Carolina | OCT. 29 | 8:15 |
| ★ MUST-SEE GAME ★ *The Cowboys will take their new go-to receiver, Terrell Owens, to play against their old one, Keyshawn Johnson.* | | |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 9** @ Washington | NOV. 5 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 10** @ Arizona | NOV. 12 | 4:15 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 11** vs. Indianapolis | NOV. 19 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 12** vs. Tampa Bay | NOV. 23 | 4:15 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 13** @ New York Giants | DEC. 3 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 14** vs. New Orleans | DEC. 10 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 15** @ Atlanta | DEC. 16 | 8:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 16** vs. Philadelphia | DEC. 25 | 5:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 17** vs. Detroit | DEC. 31 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | W | 28-24 | at San Diego |
| 09/19 | L | 13-14 | Washington |
| 09/25 | W | 34-31 | at San Francisco |
| 10/02 | L | 13-19 | at Oakland |
| 10/09 | W | 33-10 | Philadelphia |
| 10/16 | W | 16-13 | New York Giants |
| 10/23 | L | 10-13 | at Seattle |
| 10/30 | W | 34-13 | Arizona |
| 11/14 | W | 21-20 | at Philadelphia |
| 11/20 | W | 20-7 | Detroit |
| 11/24 | L | 21-24 | Denver |
| 12/04 | L | 10-17 | at New York Giants |
| 12/11 | W | 31-28 | Kansas City |
| 12/18 | L | 7-35 | at Washington |
| 12/24 | W | 24-20 | at Carolina |
| 01/01 | L | 10-20 | St. Louis |

WON 9, LOST 7

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J. Jones | 257 | 993 | 3.9 | 51 | 5 |
| Barber | 138 | 538 | 3.9 | 28t | 5 |
| Thompson | 46 | 182 | 4.0 | 16 | 0 |
| Thomas | 36 | 80 | 2.2 | 12 | 0 |
| Bledsoe | 34 | 50 | 1.5 | 9 | 2 |
| P. Price | 1 | 9 | 9.0 | 9 | 0 |
| Polite | 2 | 8 | 4.0 | 6 | 0 |
| Newman | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4 | 0 |
| K. Johnson | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| Crayton | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Romo | 2 | -2 | -1.0 | -1 | 0 |
| T. Glenn | 2 | -4 | -2.0 | 6t | 1 |
| **Cowboys** | **521** | **1861** | **3.6** | **51** | **13** |
| **Opponents** | **414** | **1731** | **4.2** | **55** | **13** |

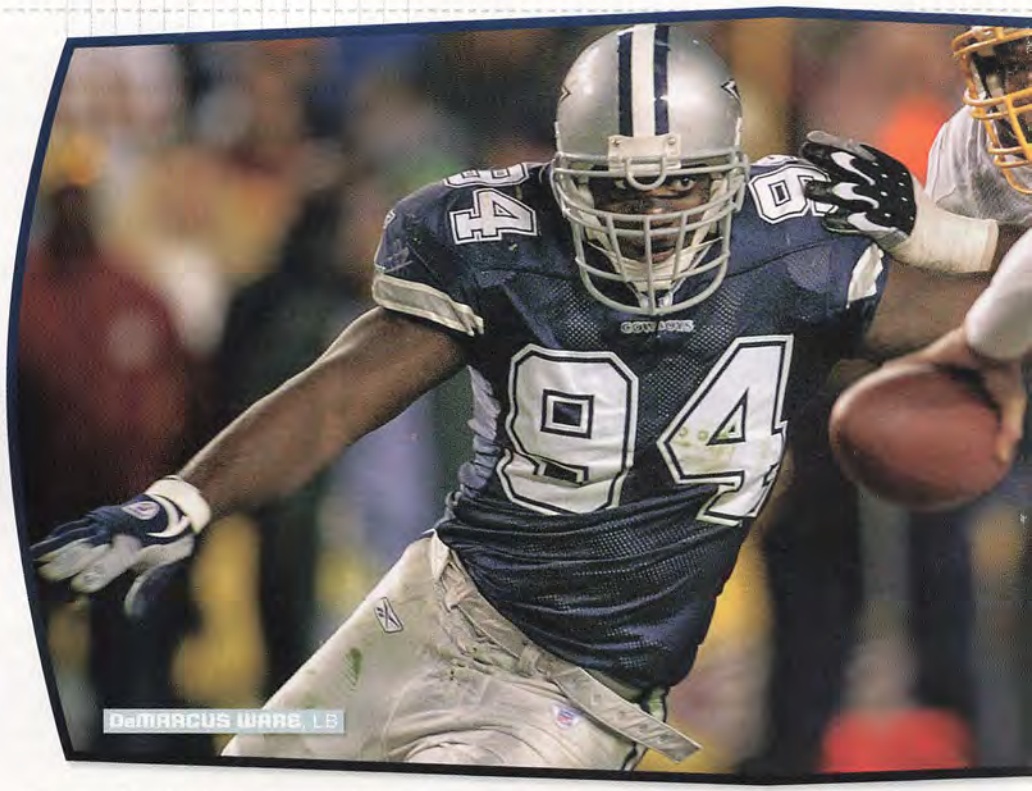
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K. Johnson | 71 | 839 | 11.8 | 34 | 6 |
| Witten | 66 | 757 | 11.5 | 34 | 6 |
| T. Glenn | 62 | 1136 | 18.3 | 71t | 7 |
| J. Jones | 35 | 218 | 6.2 | 26 | 0 |
| Crayton | 22 | 341 | 15.5 | 63t | 2 |
| Barber | 18 | 115 | 6.4 | 21 | 0 |
| Polite | 9 | 72 | 8.0 | 15 | 1 |
| P. Price | 6 | 96 | 16.0 | 58 | 0 |
| Campbell | 3 | 24 | 8.0 | 18 | 1 |
| Thompson | 3 | 16 | 5.3 | 8 | 0 |
| Pierce | 2 | 15 | 7.5 | 10 | 0 |
| Thomas | 2 | 5 | 2.5 | 5 | 0 |
| Copper | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| **Cowboys** | **300** | **3639** | **12.1** | **71t** | **23** |
| **Opponents** | **271** | **3319** | **12.2** | **89t** | **18** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bledsoe | 499 | 300 | 3639 | 23 | 17 |
| Johnson | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Cowboys** | **500** | **300** | **3639** | **23** | **17** |
| **Opponents** | **495** | **271** | **3319** | **18** | **15** |

**SACKS**

Ellis 8, Ware 8, Glover 3, Canty 2.5, James 2.5, Williams 2.5, Fujita 2, Shanle 1.5, Spears 1.5, Burnett 1, Ferguson 1, Newman 1, Nguyen 1, Ratliff 1, Coleman 0.5

**Cowboys 37, Opponents 50**




Despite the addition of Owens, depth is a concern at receiver as well. Patrick Crayton and Terrance Copper are the only veterans behind Glenn and Owens. The Cowboys also lost solid tight end Dan Campbell, but added blocker Ryan Hannam from Seattle and pass catcher Anthony Fasano in the draft.

Since the Cowboys lost three games by a field goal or less and two more by a touchdown or less, the addition of kicker Mike Vanderjagt from Indianapolis is a significant upgrade over the three kickers the Cowboys used last season. Vanderjagt is the most accurate kicker in NFL history and has kicked seven game-winners in the final 15 seconds. He will be making an adjustment to outdoor kicking and his kickoffs are often short, but the Cowboys can live with that.

The defense gives the Cowboys reason for optimism after finishing 10th in total defense with three rookies—linemen Marcus Spears and Chris Canty and linebacker DeMarcus Ware—playing key roles.

With those three poised to make typical second-year advances, Parcells' switch to his favored 3-4 alignment looks prudent and the addition of inside linebacker Akin Ayodele from Jacksonville in free agency provides a complement inside to leading tackler Bradie James.

Top draft pick Bobby Carpenter can challenge strongside linebacker Al Singleton, back from a broken collarbone, and Carpenter can play inside as well. Free-agent outside linebacker Rocky Boiman from Tennessee makes up for losing starter Scott Fujita, who filled in for Singleton. Ware tied defensive end Greg Ellis for the team lead with eight sacks and also had 11 tackles for loss. He is just beginning to figure out how to play on this level. Linebackers Scott Shanle and Ryan Fowler provide depth.

Up front, Spears won the left-end spot and Canty ended up spelling veteran Ellis, who made the transition to the 3-4 like the pro he is but remains undersized for the role. Canty played enough to become the defensive line's top tackler. Big third-round pick Jason Hatcher is a project.

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Cowboys)*

"[Terrell] Owens, [Akin] Ayodele and [Mike] Vanderjagt will help them. They really improved themselves. They replaced Keyshawn Johnson with Owens and more big plays will come out of Owens. The key is [Drew] Bledsoe, who I think can still get it done. Owens will help him and [Terry] Glenn is still a very good deep threat. I don't know if [Kyle] Kosier is an upgrade on the offensive line from Larry Allen, but Allen is probably at the end. They have those young guys, [DeMarcus] Ware and [Chris] Canty and [Marcus] Spears on defense. [La'Roi] Glover wasn't a big loss in a 3-4."

(L TO R): TOMASSO DEROSA; COURTESY NFL

After losing nose tackle La'Roi Glover to St. Louis in free agency, the Cowboys need more from Jason Ferguson, who started only five games and was bothered by a high ankle sprain last season. Second-year prospect Thomas Johnson and rookie Montavious Stanley also could help at the nose. Kenyon Coleman and Jeremiah Ratliff will compete for backup line spots.

Cornerback Terence Newman and strong safety Roy Williams are solid in the secondary. Cornerbacks Anthony Henry and Aaron Glenn provide good experience, with Glenn able to fill in as a starter on the right side when Henry was injured. Jacques Reeves and Nathan Jones are pushing for more playing time.

Roy Williams is the starting strong safety. Free safety is a concern, however, so Marcus Coleman was signed from Houston. Keith Davis started last season and big rookie Pat Watkins will get a look. Willie Pile is a special teams player and Justin Beriault is coming off knee surgery that wiped out his entire rookie season.

Punter Mat McBriar finished fourth in the NFC in net-punting average (42.5). Thompson showed promise as the top NFC rookie kickoff-return man. Crayton also returns punts, but that role should be filled by fourth-round pick Skyler Green.

FINAL GRADE: 88 STOCK UP REPORT

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Mike Vanderjagt**, K (IND)
- **Terrell Owens**, WR (PHI)
- **Ryan Hannam**, TE (SEA)
- **Jason Fabini**, OT (NYJ)
- **Kyle Kosier**, OL (DET)
- **Akin Ayodele**, LB (JAX)
- **Rocky Boiman**, LB (TEN)
- **Marcus Coleman**, DB (HOU)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **La'Roi Glover**, DT (STL)
- **Scott Fujita**, LB (NO)
- **Dan Campbell**, TE (DET)
- **Keyshawn Johnson**, WR (CAR)
- **Larry Allen**, OL (SF)
- **Peerless Price**, WR (BUF)
- **Torrin Tucker**, OT (TB)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 325.1 | 13 |
| Rushing | 116.3 | 13 |
| Passing | 208.8 | 15 |
| Scoring | 325 | 15 |
| Punt Returns | 6.3 | 26t |
| Kick Returns | 23.8 | 8 |
| Red Zone TD % | 52.8 | 13 |
| Total Defense | 300.9 | 10 |
| Against Rush | 108.2 | 15 |
| Against Pass | 192.7 | 11 |
| Points Allowed | 308 | 12 |
| Interceptions | 15 | 19t |
| Sacks | 37 | 14t |
| Turnover Diff. | -5 | 19 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 318 | 97 | 177 | 44 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 53 | 246 | 28 | 17 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | 23 | 0 | 2 |

## COWBOYS ROSTER

**Bill Parcells, head coach**; **Chris Palmer**, quarterbacks; **Todd Haley**, wide receivers/passing game; **Tony Sparano**, asst. head coach/off. line/running game; **Anthony Lynn**, running backs; **Freddie Kitchens**, tight ends; **Mike Zimmer**, def. coord.; **Paul Pasqualoni**, linebackers; **Mike MacIntyre**, safeties; **Kacy Rodgers**, def. line; **Todd Bowles**, secondary; **Vincent Brown**, middle linebackers; **Bruce DeHaven**, special teams

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | Bledsoe, Drew | QB | 6-5 | 238 | 02/14/1972 | 13 | Washington State |
| 7 | Henson, Drew | QB | 6-4 | 233 | 02/13/1980 | 1 | Michigan |
| 9 | Romo, Tony | QB | 6-2 | 219 | 04/21/1980 | 2 | Eastern Illinois |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 76 | Adams, Flozell | T | 6-7 | 343 | 05/18/1975 | 8 | Michigan State |
| 75 | Colombo, Marc | T | 6-8 | 317 | 10/08/1978 | 3 | Boston College |
| | Fabini, Jason | T | 6-7 | 304 | 08/25/1974 | 8 | Cincinnati |
| 65 | Gurode, Andre | G | 6-4 | 314 | 03/06/1978 | 4 | Colorado |
| 52 | Johnson, Al | C | 6-5 | 296 | 01/27/1979 | 2 | Wisconsin |
| 69 | Kosier, Kyle | T | 6-5 | 309 | 11/27/1978 | 4 | Arizona State |
| 72 | Peterman, Stephen | G | 6-4 | 318 | 01/11/1982 | 1 | LSU |
| 79 | Petitti, Rob | T | 6-5 | 347 | 05/21/1982 | 1 | Pittsburgh |
| 71 | Procter, Cory | G | 6-4 | 295 | 10/18/1982 | 0 | Montana |
| 62 | Rivera, Marco | G | 6-4 | 310 | 04/26/1972 | 9 | Penn State |
| 64 | Snell, Shannon | G | 6-2 | 310 | 04/27/1982 | 0 | Florida |
| 61 | Tarullo, Matt | C | 6-5 | 322 | 08/13/1982 | 0 | Syracuse |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 24 | Barber, Marion | RB | 6-0 | 212 | 06/10/1983 | 1 | Minnesota |
| 21 | Jones, Julius | RB | 5-10 | 205 | 08/14/1981 | 2 | Notre Dame |
| 27 | Kincade, Keylon | RB | 5-11 | 204 | 08/20/1982 | 0 | SMU |
| 39 | Polite, Lousaka | RB | 6-0 | 246 | 09/14/1981 | 2 | Pittsburgh |
| 28 | Thompson, Tyson | RB | 6-1 | 215 | 05/21/1981 | 1 | San Jose State |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 18 | Copper, Terrance | WR | 6-0 | 201 | 03/12/1982 | 2 | East Carolina |
| 84 | Crayton, Patrick | WR | 6-0 | 200 | 04/07/1979 | 2 | NW Oklahoma State |
| 15 | Crowder, Tom | WR | 6-1 | 207 | 01/21/1981 | 0 | Arkansas |
| 89 | Curtis, Tony | TE | 6-6 | 250 | 11/11/1983 | 0 | Portland State |
| 83 | Glenn, Terry | WR | 5-11 | 193 | 07/23/1974 | 10 | Ohio State |
| 48 | Hannam, Ryan | TE | 6-2 | 248 | 02/24/1980 | 4 | Northern Iowa |
| 86 | Merritt, Ahmad | WR | 5-10 | 195 | 02/05/1977 | 3 | Wisconsin |
| 81 | Owens, Terrell | WR | 6-3 | 226 | 12/07/1973 | 10 | Chattanooga |
| 88 | Pierce, Brett | TE | 6-5 | 250 | 01/07/1981 | 2 | Stanford |
| 13 | Rector, Jamaica | WR | 5-10 | 182 | 08/10/1981 | 0 | NW Missouri State |
| 80 | Ryan, Sean | TE | 6-5 | 257 | 03/27/1980 | 2 | Boston College |
| 87 | Tolver, J.R. | WR | 6-1 | 205 | 01/13/1980 | 0 | San Diego State |
| 82 | Witten, Jason | TE | 6-5 | 261 | 05/06/1982 | 3 | Tennessee |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 99 | Canty, Chris | DE | 6-7 | 279 | 11/10/1982 | 1 | Virginia |
| 93 | Coleman, Kenyon | DE | 6-5 | 284 | 04/10/1979 | 4 | UCLA |
| 98 | Ellis, Greg | DE | 6-6 | 271 | 08/14/1975 | 8 | North Carolina |
| 95 | Ferguson, Jason | DT | 6-3 | 305 | 11/28/1974 | 8 | Georgia |
| 78 | Glymph, Junior | DE | 6-5 | 270 | 09/02/1980 | 2 | Carson-Newman |
| 94 | Jamison, Vontrell | DE | 6-7 | 280 | 05/24/1980 | 0 | Clemson |
| 92 | Johnson, Thomas | DT | 6-2 | 294 | 06/24/1981 | 1 | Middle Tennessee |
| 91 | Ladouceur, L.P. | DE | 6-4 | 257 | 03/13/1981 | 1 | California |
| 66 | Ratliff, Jeremiah | DE | 6-3 | 293 | 08/29/1981 | 1 | Auburn |
| 96 | Spears, Marcus | DE | 6-4 | 307 | 03/08/1983 | 1 | LSU |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 25 | Coleman, Marcus | S | 6-2 | 206 | 05/24/1974 | 10 | Texas Tech |
| 29 | Davis, Keith | S | 5-10 | 198 | 12/30/1978 | 3 | Sam Houston St. |
| 26 | Glenn, Aaron | CB | 5-9 | 185 | 07/16/1972 | 12 | Texas A&M |
| 42 | Henry, Anthony | CB | 6-1 | 205 | 11/03/1976 | 5 | South Florida |
| 33 | Jones, Nathan | CB | 5-10 | 184 | 06/13/1982 | 2 | Rutgers |
| 41 | Newman, Terence | CB | 5-11 | 190 | 09/04/1978 | 3 | Kansas State |
| 20 | Pile, Willie | S | 6-2 | 206 | 05/25/1980 | 2 | Virginia Tech |
| 35 | Reeves, Jacques | CB | 5-11 | 190 | 10/08/1982 | 2 | Purdue |
| 30 | Williams, Lenny | CB | 6-0 | 190 | 12/16/1981 | 0 | Southern |
| 31 | Williams, Roy | S | 6-0 | 226 | 08/14/1980 | 4 | Oklahoma |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 50 | Ayodele, Akin | LB | 6-2 | 251 | 09/17/1979 | 4 | Purdue |
| 59 | Boiman, Rocky | LB | 6-4 | 236 | 01/24/1980 | 4 | Notre Dame |
| 57 | Burnett, Kevin | LB | 6-2 | 239 | 12/24/1982 | 1 | Tennessee |
| 55 | Fowler, Ryan | LB | 6-3 | 243 | 05/20/1982 | 2 | Duke |
| 56 | James, Bradie | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 01/17/1981 | 3 | LSU |
| 58 | Shanle, Scott | LB | 6-2 | 237 | 11/23/1979 | 3 | Nebraska |
| 51 | Singleton, Al | LB | 6-2 | 236 | 08/07/1975 | 9 | Temple |
| 53 | Thornton, Kalen | LB | 6-3 | 240 | 05/12/1982 | 1 | Texas |
| 94 | Ware, DeMarcus | LB | 6-4 | 251 | 07/31/1982 | 1 | Troy |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 1 | McBriar, Mat | P | 6-1 | 210 | 07/08/1979 | 2 | Hawaii |
| 4 | Suisham, Shaun | K | 6-0 | 199 | 12/29/1981 | 1 | Bowling Green |
| 13 | Vanderjagt, Mike | K | 6-5 | 211 | 03/24/1970 | 8 | West Virginia |

2005 RECORD: 11-5 | www.giants.com

# NEW YORK GIANTS

NFC EAST #2

GIANTS STADIUM
CAPACITY: 80,062 | TURF: ARTIFICIAL | TICKETS: 201-935-8222

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 3 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 5 |
| RECEIVERS | 4 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| LINEBACKERS | 3 |
| SECONDARY | 2 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 4 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Eli Manning | LE | Michael Strahan | P | Jeff Feagles |
| FB | Jim Finn | LT | Fred Robbins | PR | Chad Morton |
| RB | Tiki Barber | RT | William Joseph | K | Jay Feely |
| LT | Luke Petitgout | RE | Osi Umenyiora | HR | Chad Morton |
| LG | David Diehl | LLB | Carlos Emmons | | |
| C | Shawn O'Hara | MLB | Antonio Pierce | | |
| RG | Chris Snee | RLB | LaVar Arrington | | |
| RT | Kareem McKenzie | LCB | Sam Madison | | |
| TE | Jeremy Shockey | RCB | Corey Webster | | |
| WR | Amani Toomer | SS | Gibril Wilson | | |
| WR | Plaxico Burress | FS | Will Demps | | |

**ON THE RISE**

**TIKI BARBER**
running back
Not many backs have their best year in their ninth season.

**FADING FAST**

**CARLOS EMMONS**
linebacker
He ended his 10th season on injured reserve along with two other linebackers who had started.

# Giant expectations

New York is still waiting for Eli Manning to fulfill his vast promise entering his third NFL campaign.

Five of the eight division winners lost their first playoff game at home last season, so the New York Giants have plenty of company in their misery after falling to Carolina in the wild-card round. What compounds the apprehension for the Giants was the poor showing of their prize quarterback, Eli Manning. The Giants were shut out in that game 23-0, an especially unhappy ending to an 11-5 season for a team that scored 422 total points, third highest in the league.

During the second half of his second season, Manning regressed, throwing 12 of his 17 interceptions and looking less comfortable than he did at times as a rookie. Meanwhile, Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger was on his way to a Super Bowl, placing even more pressure squarely on Manning's future.

It is not the kind of situation New York fans greet with a pat on the back and a calm call for more patience. Then, as if to torture Manning, the NFL scheduled the Giants to open the season against big brother Peyton and the Indianapolis Colts in the NFL's first-ever game between brothers as starting quarterbacks. The game would have to be in New York, of course, which suddenly doesn't appear like a friendly retreat.

Coach Tom Coughlin knows both quarterbacks will be focused on the other team's defense more than on each other, but he also knows that won't keep fans from comparing every move Archie's sons make.

Coughlin also bravely insists he is not worried about Manning's progress, or lack of such, after only 23 starts. His record in two years as a starter is 12-11, a little better than Peyton's 16-16 mark at the same point.

"Certainly I don't want to see a reoccurrence of 12 interceptions in the second half of the season," Coughlin says. "Neither does Eli. But he jumped wholeheartedly into the offseason studies, the interception tape, the sack tape, the green area tape."

Eventually, the Giants are hopeful all that work will pay off in ticker tape. It's just that the team's two best players, running back Tiki Barber and defensive end Michael Strahan, are into their 30s

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## THE BOOK ON ... LaVAR ARRINGTON

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"The best thing he does is rush the passer. The worst thing he does is freelance. He's not where he's supposed to be. That happens a lot with him. You'll have 10 people doing what they're supposed to do and then they'll run the ball right where Arrington was supposed to be. He's very capable of playing the run. Big, strong, fast, can change direction. He's got acceleration and burst. He can take a game over. If you have [Michael] Strahan on one side and Arrington on the other side, an offense can have problems. [Osi] Umenyiora is a good player, but when we played them we just worried about Strahan. If we played them this year, we'd have troubles. It will start off very well, but if he doesn't have any success early, then it will be a disruption."

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; EVAN PINKUS / WIRE IMAGE.COM

### FACT

No NFL player had ever accumulated 1,800 rushing yards and 500 receiving yards in the same season before Tiki Barber collected 1,860 on the ground and 530 through the air in 2005.

### STAT

Four Giants—Plaxico Burress (76), Jeremy Shockey (65), Amani Toomer (60) and Tiki Barber (54)—had at least 50 receptions last season. The only other club to ever have four players with at least 50 catches was the San Diego Chargers.

### LOOK IT UP

The 2005 Giants won the NFC East, finishing in first place for the 21st time in franchise history. That broke a tie with the Green Bay Packers for the most division championships.

### 5-YEAR WINS

### GIANTS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. STEVE OWEN (23 YEARS)
   **Record with Giants:** 154-107-17
2. BILL PARCELLS (8 YEARS)
   **Record with Giants:** 85-52-1
3. JIM LEE HOWELL (7 YEARS)
   **Record with Giants:** 55-29-4

### THE COUNT

**26**
Sacks by Osi Umenyiora and Michael Strahan, the best two-player total by any NFL team.

**4.7**
Yards per rush by the Giants in 2005, the best single-season average in team history.

**10**
Touchdowns scored in the final two minutes of a half by the Giants, most in the NFL.

now and can't afford much more patience than typical fans.

Barber might be an exception. He enjoyed his best season ever at age 30 and one of the best years in the history of NFL running backs. Just when most running backs are in decline, Barber cranked up personal bests in rushing attempts (357), yards (1,860) and total yards from scrimmage (2,390). Moreover, he didn't lose a single fumble, putting a one-time flaw behind him.

Barber led the league in rushes of 20-plus yards (16), 40-plus (seven) and 50-plus (five). His 263 total yards against Oakland, 220 rushing yards against Kansas City and 95-yard run against the Raiders were NFL single-game highs in 2005.

Barber's excellence only adds to Manning's pressure, of course. With defenses stacked against Barber, it should be easy to play quarterback, shouldn't it?

Only three teams had more possessions inside the 20-yard line, but 13 teams scored more touchdowns in the red zone, so the Giants believe they could have led the league in scoring. Goal-line runner Brandon Jacobs helped with seven touchdowns as a rookie, but he had only 38 carries all year, so Barber is not ready to share the load with anybody. Chad Morton is another backup and Jim Finn is Barber's unheralded blocking fullback.

Manning hit receivers Plaxico Burress and Amani Toomer and tight end Jeremy Shockey with seven touchdown passes apiece, so the Giants obviously have a well-balanced attack. Yet they were shut out in the playoffs, causing Barber, for one, to question Coughlin's coaching—another concern that the coach thinks has blown over.

"He came upstairs and we looked at the tape together and I think he had a good understanding of where I was coming from," Coughlin says.

## DRAFT REPORT

After signing LaVar Arrington to fill their biggest need just prior to the draft, the Giants could have gone a number of different directions in Round One. They ended up surprising most with the selection of **Mathias Kiwanuka**. Although he put up big numbers at Boston College, he will need to add strength, work on position technique and add a few secondary pass-rush moves. What made his selection most surprising was the depth the team already had at defensive end with Michael Strahan, Osi Umenyiora and Justin Tuck. Eli Manning will be happy with the addition of **Sinorice Moss** at receiver. **Gerris Wilkinson** can play any of the linebacker positions and could be used to push aging Carlos Emmons. **Barry Cofield** was one of the top sleepers and will push defensive tackle Fred Robbins for playing time. **Guy Whimper** is a top athlete, but played just one season at offensive tackle. **Charlie Peprah** has experience at safety and cornerback and will provide quality depth. **Gerrick McPhearson** has great speed, but needs work as a defensive back.

GRADE: **C**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 32 | Kiwanuka, Mathias | DE | 6-6 | 265 | Boston College |
| 2 | 12 | Moss, Sinorice | WR | 5-8 | 184 | Miami (FL) |
| 3 | 32 | Wilkinson, Gerris | LB | 6-3 | 239 | Georgia Tech |
| 4 | 27 | Cofield Jr., Barry | DT | 6-4 | 303 | Northwestern |
| 4 | 32 | Whimper, Guy | T | 6-5 | 305 | East Carolina |
| 5 | 25 | Peprah, Charlie | S | 5-11 | 202 | Alabama |
| 7 | 24 | McPhearson, Gerrick | DB | 5-10 | 191 | Maryland |

## 2006 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. Indianapolis
SEPT. 10 | 8:15
★ MUST-SEE GAME ★
*The first NFL game pitting brothers as starting quarterbacks—Peyton vs. Eli.*
SCORE

**WEEK 2** @ Philadelphia
SEPT. 17 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 3** @ Seattle
SEPT. 24 | 4:15
SCORE

**WEEK 4** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 5** vs. Washington
OCT. 8 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 6** @ Atlanta
OCT. 15 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 7** @ Dallas
OCT. 23 | 8:30
SCORE

**WEEK 8** vs. Tampa Bay
OCT. 29 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 9** vs. Houston
NOV. 5 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 10** vs. Chicago
NOV. 12 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 11** @ Jacksonville
NOV. 20 | 8:30
SCORE

**WEEK 12** @ Tennessee
NOV. 26 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 13** vs. Dallas
DEC. 3 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 14** @ Carolina
DEC. 10 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 15** vs. Philadelphia
DEC. 17 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 16** vs. New Orleans
DEC. 24 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 17** @ Washington
DEC. 30 | 8:00
SCORE

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | W | 42-19 | Arizona |
| 09/19 | W | 27-10 | at New Orleans |
| 09/25 | L | 23-45 | at San Diego |
| 10/02 | W | 44-24 | St. Louis |
| 10/16 | L | 13-16 | at Dallas |
| 10/23 | W | 24-23 | Denver |
| 10/30 | W | 36-0 | Washington |
| 11/06 | W | 24-6 | at San Francisco |
| 11/13 | L | 21-24 | Minnesota |
| 11/20 | W | 27-17 | Philadelphia |
| 11/27 | L | 21-24 | at Seattle |
| 12/04 | W | 17-10 | Dallas |
| 12/11 | W | 26-23 | at Philadelphia |
| 12/17 | W | 27-17 | Kansas City |
| 12/24 | L | 20-35 | at Washington |
| 12/31 | W | 30-21 | at Oakland |

WON **11**, LOST **5**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barber | 357 | 1860 | 5.2 | 95t | 9 |
| Ward | 35 | 123 | 3.5 | 12 | 0 |
| Jacobs | 38 | 99 | 2.6 | 21 | 7 |
| Manning | 29 | 80 | 2.8 | 14 | 1 |
| Carter | 6 | 46 | 7.7 | 22 | 0 |
| Ponder | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4 | 0 |
| Cloud | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hasselbeck | 2 | -3 | -1.5 | -1 | 0 |
| **Giants** | **469** | **2209** | **4.7** | **95t** | **17** |
| **Opponents** | **428** | **1656** | **3.9** | **62** | **12** |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Burress | 76 | 1214 | 16.0 | 78t | 7 |
| Shockey | 65 | 891 | 13.7 | 59 | 7 |
| Toomer | 60 | 684 | 11.4 | 37 | 7 |
| Barber | 54 | 530 | 9.8 | 48 | 2 |
| Finn | 13 | 98 | 7.5 | 15 | 0 |
| Carter | 10 | 186 | 18.6 | 44 | 0 |
| Shiancoe | 8 | 91 | 11.4 | 17 | 0 |
| Tyree | 5 | 52 | 10.4 | 18 | 1 |
| Ward | 2 | 13 | 6.5 | 8 | 0 |
| Berton | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| **Giants** | **294** | **3762** | **12.8** | **78t** | **24** |
| **Opponents** | **329** | **3852** | **11.7** | **72t** | **20** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manning | 557 | 294 | 3762 | 24 | 17 |
| Barber | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Giants** | **558** | **294** | **3762** | **24** | **17** |
| **Opponents** | **580** | **329** | **3852** | **20** | **17** |

**SACKS**

Umenyiora 14.5, Strahan 11.5, Wilson 3, Pierce 2.5, K. Allen 2, Clancy 2, Joseph 2, Robbins 1.5, Greisen 1, Tuck 1

**Giants 41, Opponents 28**

STEVE BEYER

Burress became the deep threat, averaging 16 yards on 76 catches, while Shockey caught 65 passes and Toomer 60, uncommon distribution for any team. The Giants, however, are hoping for more firepower from second-round pick Sinorice Moss as a third wideout. The quick Moss is even smaller than his brother, Santana, who is with the Redskins, but if he can provide a fraction of the impact, the Giants will be happy. Tim Carter, David Tyree and Jamaar Taylor are also possibilities to break out at WR.

The offense enjoyed continuity, with all 11 starters available for at least 13 games, while backup tight end Visanthe Shiancoe started some games in place of Finn. The stability helped the offensive line protect Manning, although depth remains a concern behind tackles Luke Petitgout and Kareem McKenzie, guards David Diehl and Chris Snee and center Shaun O'Hara. Bob Whitfield, Rich Seubert and Lewis Kelly are backups, joined by fourth-round pick Guy Whimper. The Giants also signed Jai Lewis, a basketball player from George Mason, to try out at tight end or tackle.

Manning is backed up only by untested Tim Hasselbeck and Jared Lorenzen, so the Giants hope the best thing he has learned from his brother is survival.

On defense, left end Strahan made his seventh Pro Bowl and combined with right end Osi Umenyiora for 26 sacks. Umenyiora came into his own with 14.5 sacks to lead the NFC and also forced four fumbles. Justin Tuck also showed promise as a rookie pass rusher

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Giants)*

"I don't understand what they're doing. They signed about five defensive backs, but [Sam] Madison is at the end. [R.W.] McQuarters and the other guys give them depth but no impact. [LaVar] Arrington is a wild card. If Gregg Williams couldn't get Arrington to do the things he needed to do in Washington, what makes [Tom] Coughlin think he can? Is Arrington humbled? Probably. The leadership there is going to have to slap him around. [Michael] Strahan is going to be the key. He's going to have to keep Arrington in line and get him to play the defense and be responsible. [Eli] Manning made great progress from Year One to Year Two and needs to make the same progress in Year Three. They need to trust him more to put the ball down the field because they have weapons. Tiki Barber is kind of like Curtis Martin and Priest Holmes. They get better with age."

and the Giants felt they couldn't pass up Boston College's Mathias Kiwanuka with their first pick in the draft.

Linebacker became a big problem because of injuries, so the Giants are hopeful the addition of LaVar Arrington from the Redskins will have a similar impact as last year's addition of Antonio Pierce (who also came from Washington) did.

A lack of depth at linebacker and in the middle of the line doomed the Giants against the Panthers in the playoffs. When tackle William Joseph got hurt after midseason, it seemed to start a landslide. Kendrick Clancy signed with Arizona, leaving an inside job open for backups Fred Robbins, Damane Duckett and Jonas Seawright, and a good opportunity for fourth-round pick Barry Cofield to start.

Middle linebacker Pierce was the leading tackler until he got hurt and missed the stretch run of the season. With three other linebackers, including starter Carlos Emmons, on injured reserve by season's end, it was a wonder the Giants could tackle anybody. Brandon Short, a former starter, was re-signed from Carolina, but Arrington needs to learn the defense and be ready to contribute immediately.

Former starter Nick Greisen left in free agency, meaning third-round pick Gerris Wilkinson joins backups Reggie Torbor, Chase Blackburn and Marcus Lawrence as depth.

With cornerbacks Will Peterson finishing on injured reserve with a bad back and Will Allen leaving for Miami in free agency, the Giants signed the Dolphins' Sam Madison to start at the position opposite second-year pro Corey Webster. Jason Bell, who was signed from Houston, and R.W. McQuarters, who was signed from Detroit, will join Curtis Deloatch as extra corners.

Will Demps arrived from Baltimore to play free safety next to strong safety Gibril Wilson, with Quentin Harris, James Butler, and draft picks Charlie Peprah and Gerrick McPhearson offering depth.

McQuarters will join Morton and Ponder in the return game. Ageless punter Jeff Feagles will keep his consecutive games played (283) record alive and Jay Feely, who suffered one lapse in Seattle but was otherwise dependable, is back as the placekicker.

COURTESY NFL

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **LaVar Arrington**, LB (WAS)
- **Sam Madison**, CB (MIA)
- **Will Demps**, DB (BAL)
- **Jason Bell**, CB (HOU)
- **Quentin Harris**, DB (ARI)
- **R.W. McQuarters**, CB (DET)
- **Monsanto Pope**, DT (DEN)
- **Brandon Short**, LB (CAR)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Kendrick Clancy**, DT (ARI)
- **Jason Whittle**, OG (MIN)
- **Shaun Williams**, DB (CAR)
- **Will Allen**, CB (MIA)
- **Nick Greisen**, LB (JAX)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 361.7 | 4 |
| Rushing | 138.1 | 6 |
| Passing | 223.6 | 11 |
| Scoring | 422 | 3 |
| Punt Returns | 9.2 | 8 |
| Kick Returns | 24.3 | 3t |
| Red Zone TD % | 45.8 | 22 |
| Total Defense | 327.5 | 24 |
| Against Rush | 103.5 | 12 |
| Against Pass | 224.0 | 27 |
| Points Allowed | 314 | 14 |
| Interceptions | 17 | 10t |
| Sacks | 41 | 8t |
| Turnover Diff. | +11 | 5t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 312 | 106 | 172 | 34 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 59 | 257 | 27 | 22 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17 | 24 | 2 | 2 |

## GIANTS ROSTER

**Tom Coughlin, head coach**; **John Hufnagel**, off. coord.; **Dave DeGuglielmo**, asst. off. line; **Pat Flaherty**, off. line; **Kevin Gilbride**, quarterbacks; **Jerald Ingram**, running backs; **Mike Pope**, tight ends; **Mike Sullivan**, wide receivers; **Tim Lewis**, def. coord.; **Bill Sheridan**, linebackers; **David Merritt**, asst. secondary; **Mike Waufle**, def. line; **Peter Giunta**, secondary; **Mike Sweatman**, special teams coord.

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Harris, Josh | QB | 6-1 | 234 | 09/09/1982 | 0 | Bowling Green |
| 8 | Hasselbeck, Tim | QB | 6-1 | 211 | 04/06/1978 | 3 | Boston College |
| 12 | Lorenzen, Jared | QB | 6-4 | 275 | 02/14/1981 | 0 | Kentucky |
| 10 | Manning, Eli | QB | 6-4 | 218 | 01/03/1981 | 2 | Mississippi |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 66 | Diehl, David | G | 6-5 | 315 | 09/15/1980 | 3 | Illinois |
| 78 | Doty, Jonathan | T | 6-7 | 300 | 03/08/1982 | 0 | Kansas State |
| 61 | Kelly, Lewis | G | 6-4 | 306 | 04/21/1977 | 4 | S.C. State |
| 67 | McKenzie, Kareem | T | 6-6 | 327 | 05/24/1979 | 5 | Penn State |
| 60 | O'Hara, Shaun | C | 6-3 | 306 | 06/23/1977 | 6 | Rutgers |
| 77 | Petitgout, Luke | T | 6-6 | 310 | 06/16/1976 | 7 | Notre Dame |
| 65 | Ruegamer, Grey | G | 6-4 | 305 | 06/11/1976 | 6 | Arizona State |
| 69 | Seubert, Rich | G | 6-3 | 305 | 03/30/1979 | 4 | Western Illinois |
| 76 | Snee, Chris | G | 6-3 | 314 | 01/08/1982 | 2 | Boston College |
| 71 | Whitfield, Bob | T | 6-5 | 310 | 10/18/1971 | 14 | Stanford |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 21 | Barber, Tiki | RB | 5-10 | 200 | 04/07/1975 | 9 | Virginia |
| 20 | Finn, Jim | RB | 6-0 | 245 | 12/02/1976 | 6 | Pennsylvania |
| 47 | Grant, Ryan | RB | 6-1 | 218 | 12/09/1982 | 0 | Notre Dame |
| | Hanoian, Gregg | RB | 6-2 | 255 | 12/09/1981 | 0 | Syracuse |
| 27 | Jacobs, Brandon | RB | 6-4 | 256 | 07/06/1982 | 1 | Southern Illinois |
| 29 | Morton, Chad | RB | 5-8 | 203 | 04/04/1977 | 6 | USC |
| 34 | Ward, Derrick | RB | 5-11 | 233 | 08/30/1980 | 2 | Ottawa |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 88 | Berton, Sean | TE | 6-4 | 272 | 10/31/1979 | 3 | N.C. State |
| 17 | Burress, Plaxico | WR | 6-5 | 226 | 08/12/1977 | 6 | Michigan State |
| 84 | Carter, Tim | WR | 6-0 | 200 | 09/21/1979 | 4 | Auburn |
| 45 | Fletcher, Wade | TE | 6-7 | 242 | 04/30/1982 | 0 | Columbia |
| 44 | Jackson, Tony | TE | 6-2 | 264 | 07/05/1982 | 0 | Iowa |
| 15 | Jennings, Michael | WR | 5-11 | 175 | 09/07/1979 | 0 | Florida State |
| 83 | Kranchick, Matt | TE | 6-7 | 260 | 12/13/1979 | 2 | Penn State |
| 19 | Luke, Triandos | WR | 5-10 | 195 | 12/24/1981 | 1 | Alabama |
| 87 | Ponder, Willie | WR | 6-0 | 205 | 02/14/1980 | 3 | S.E. Missouri St. |
| 82 | Shiancoe, Visanthe | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 06/18/1980 | 3 | Morgan State |
| 80 | Shockey, Jeremy | TE | 6-5 | 253 | 08/18/1980 | 4 | Miami (FL) |
| 86 | Taylor, Jamaar | WR | 6-0 | 197 | 02/25/1981 | 2 | Texas A&M |
| 81 | Toomer, Amani | WR | 6-3 | 208 | 09/08/1974 | 10 | Michigan |
| 85 | Tyree, David | WR | 6-0 | 205 | 01/03/1980 | 3 | Syracuse |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 95 | Awasom, Adrian | DE | 6-5 | 275 | 10/25/1983 | 1 | North Texas |
| 99 | Duckett, Damane | DT | 6-6 | 300 | 01/21/1981 | 2 | East Carolina |
| 94 | Joseph, William | DT | 6-5 | 315 | 09/03/1979 | 3 | Miami (FL) |
| 90 | Kuehl, Ryan | DT | 6-5 | 280 | 01/18/1972 | 8 | Virginia |
| 93 | Moore, Eric | DE | 6-4 | 268 | 02/28/1981 | 1 | Florida State |
| 98 | Robbins, Fred | DT | 6-4 | 325 | 03/25/1977 | 6 | Wake Forest |
| 75 | Seawright, Jonas | DT | 6-6 | 312 | 04/12/1982 | 0 | North Carolina |
| 92 | Strahan, Michael | DE | 6-5 | 275 | 11/21/1971 | 13 | Texas Southern |
| 91 | Tuck, Justin | DE | 6-5 | 268 | 03/29/1983 | 1 | Notre Dame |
| 72 | Umenyiora, Osi | DE | 6-3 | 280 | 11/16/1980 | 3 | Troy |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 33 | Bell, Jason | CB | 6-0 | 186 | 04/01/1978 | 5 | UCLA |
| 37 | Butler, James | S | 6-3 | 210 | 09/07/1982 | 1 | Georgia Tech |
| 39 | Deloatch, Curtis | CB | 6-2 | 217 | 10/04/1981 | 2 | N.C. A&T |
| 47 | Demps, Will | S | 6-0 | 205 | 11/07/1979 | 4 | San Diego State |
| | Duff, Vontez | CB | 5-11 | 204 | 03/08/1982 | 0 | Notre Dame |
| 26 | Harris, Quentin | S | 6-1 | 213 | 01/26/1977 | 4 | Syracuse |
| 22 | Madison, Sam | CB | 5-11 | 180 | 04/23/1974 | 9 | Louisville |
| 43 | Mayes, Adrian | S | 6-1 | 215 | 11/17/1980 | 2 | LSU |
| 25 | McQuarters, R.W. | CB | 5-10 | 195 | 12/21/1976 | 8 | Oklahoma State |
| 24 | Peterson, William | CB | 6-0 | 200 | 06/15/1979 | 5 | Western Illinois |
| | Shivers, Jason | S | 6-0 | 201 | 11/04/1982 | 1 | Arizona State |
| 41 | Walker, Frank | CB | 5-10 | 198 | 08/06/1980 | 3 | Tuskegee |
| 23 | Webster, Corey | CB | 6-0 | 204 | 03/02/1982 | 1 | LSU |
| 30 | Williams, Brandon | CB | 5-11 | 186 | 11/17/1980 | 0 | Michigan |
| 28 | Wilson, Gibril | S | 6-0 | 197 | 11/12/1981 | 2 | Tennessee |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 55 | Arrington, LaVar | LB | 6-3 | 255 | 06/20/1978 | 6 | Penn State |
| 57 | Blackburn, Chase | LB | 6-3 | 247 | 06/10/1983 | 1 | Akron |
| 51 | Emmons, Carlos | LB | 6-5 | 250 | 09/03/1973 | 10 | Arkansas State |
| 46 | Lawrence, Marcus | LB | 6-3 | 236 | 06/21/1982 | 0 | South Carolina |
| 58 | Pierce, Antonio | LB | 6-1 | 240 | 10/26/1978 | 5 | Arizona |
| 54 | Short, Brandon | LB | 6-3 | 253 | 07/11/1977 | 6 | Penn State |
| | Smith, Tyson | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 10/09/1981 | 0 | Iowa State |
| 53 | Torbor, Reggie | LB | 6-2 | 254 | 01/25/1981 | 2 | Auburn |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| | Dorsch, Travis | K | 6-6 | 228 | 09/04/1979 | 1 | Purdue |
| 18 | Feagles, Jeff | P | 6-1 | 215 | 03/07/1966 | 18 | Miami (FL) |
| 2 | Feely, Jay | K | 5-10 | 206 | 05/23/1976 | 5 | Michigan |

2005 RECORD: 10-6 | www.redskins.com

# WASHINGTON

## REDSKINS

NFC EAST #3

FEDEX FIELD
CAPACITY: 91,665 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 301-276-6050

### POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 3 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 4 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| LINEBACKERS | 4 |
| SECONDARY | 4 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 2 |
| MANAGEMENT | 2 |

### PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Mark Brunell | LE | Phillip Daniels | P | Derrick Frost |
| FB | Chris Cooley | LT | Cornelius Griffin | PR | Antonio Brown |
| RB | Clinton Portis | RT | Joe Salave'a | H | John Hall |
| LT | Chris Samuels | RE | Andre Carter | KR | Ladell Betts |
| LG | Derrick Dockery | LLB | Marcus Washington | | |
| C | Casey Rabach | MLB | Lemar Marshall | | |
| RG | Randy Thomas | RLB | Chris Clemons | | |
| RT | Jon Jansen | LCB | Carlos Rogers | | |
| TE | Christian Fauria | RCB | Shawn Springs | | |
| WR | Santana Moss | SS | Adam Archuleta | | |
| WR | Brandon Lloyd | FS | Sean Taylor | | |

### ON THE RISE

**SANTANA MOSS**
wide receiver
He is now playing like the New York Jets thought he was going to.

### FADING FAST

**MARK BRUNELL**
quarterback
The Redskins are paving the way for Jason Campbell to take over after spending two No. 1 picks on him.

# Daniel's dollars

Redskins owner Snyder spent another offseason locking up valuable parts, including the best NFL coaching staff money can buy.

No sooner had Joe Gibbs coached his Redskins to their first playoff win since 1999 than owner Daniel Snyder once again reached for his wallet.

Gibbs locked up Defensive Coordinator Gregg Williams for $2.6 million a year and hired Offensive Coordinator Al Saunders from Kansas City for $2 million a year. Both will earn more than several NFL head coaches do.

Saved by a new collective-bargaining agreement, the Redskins then got out of salary-cap jail and immediately threw big bucks at free agent safety Adam Archuleta from St. Louis, receiver Antwaan Randle El from Pittsburgh and defensive end/linebacker Andre Carter from San Francisco, paying each at least $30 million over six years.

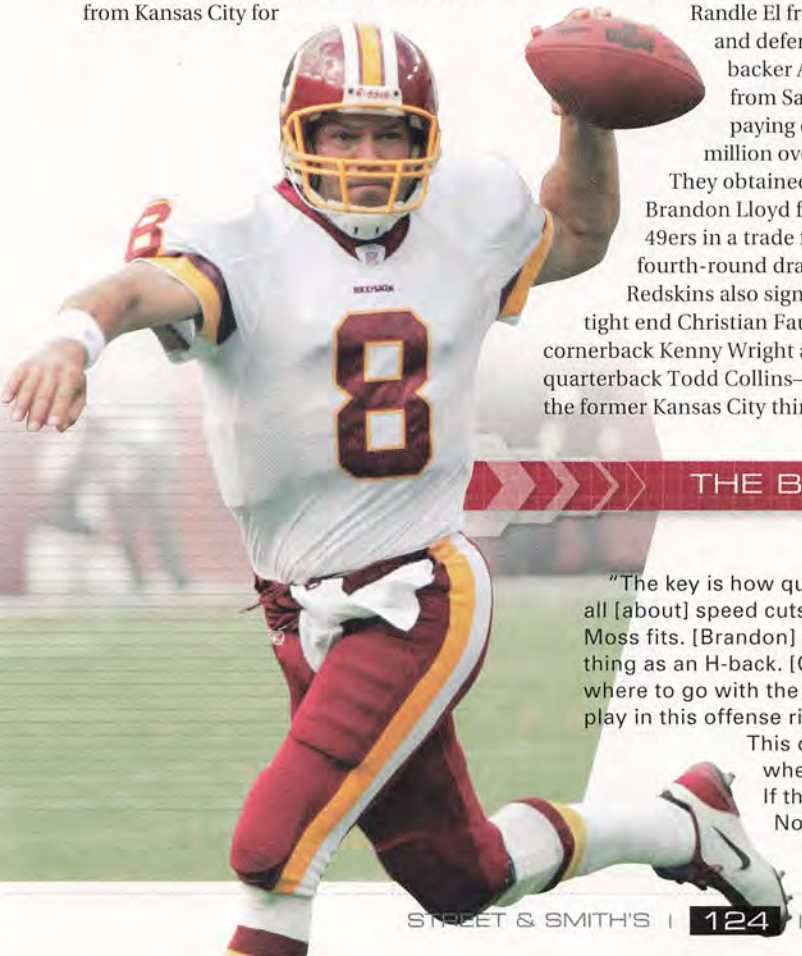
They obtained receiver Brandon Lloyd from the 49ers in a trade for third- and fourth-round draft picks. The Redskins also signed free-agent tight end Christian Fauria, free-agent cornerback Kenny Wright and backup quarterback Todd Collins—even flying the former Kansas City third-stringer, who hasn't started a game since 1997, in for a visit on Snyder's jet.

When it comes to offseasons, the Redskins rule. By March, Gibbs already had his quarterback rotation in mind for preseason games. The idea is to let Collins help Saunders introduce the new Washington offense and then get second-year prospect Jason Campbell ready as fast as possible to step in for veteran Mark Brunell.

"With Jason, one of our goals would be to play him a lot in the preseason," Gibbs says. "If I had to guess, you'd probably play Todd and Mark a quarter and let Jason play a half. Let him play a lot, and then everyone will get an opinion."

Based on rookie practices last year, the opinion on Campbell already is very good. The Redskins spent this year's No. 1 pick to move up in the draft last year to get him. Investments like that don't spend much time on the bench. However, his progress probably will get set back by the transition from one offense to another.

At 35, Brunell is coming off one of his best years, so Gibbs is not in a hurry to shove him aside. It is the most comfortable feeling Gibbs has had at quarterback entering a season in a long time.



## THE BOOK ON ... MARK BRUNELL

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"The key is how quickly he grasps the offense. It's a complicated offense, all [about] speed cuts. He does have some wide receivers who fit. [Santana] Moss fits. [Brandon] Lloyd will fit. [Chris] Cooley doesn't fit. There's no such thing as an H-back. [Clinton] Portis fits. Brunell is going to have to know where to go with the ball and get it out of his hands. Jason Campbell can't play in this offense right away. He could play in the old [Joe] Gibbs offense. This offense is a timing offense. If a receiver isn't exactly where he's supposed to be, it's going to be an interception. If the ball isn't out on time, it's not going to be a completion. No route adjustments, no audible system."

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TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; JEFF FISHBEIN

**FACT**

The Redskins have won their first playoff game in each of their last seven postseason appearances.

**STAT**

Washington allowed only 29 rushing plays of 10 yards or more last season, the lowest total in the NFC and second lowest to Pittsburgh (27) in the NFL.

**LOOK IT UP**

Clinton Portis' 98.8 career rushing yards per game ranks third in NFL history (minimum 50 games played) behind Jim Brown (104.3) and Barry Sanders (99.8).

## 5-YEAR WINS

## REDSKINS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **JOE GIBBS** (14 YEARS)
   **Record with Redskins:** 157-82
2. **GEORGE ALLEN** (7 YEARS)
   **Record with Redskins:** 69-35-1
3. **RAY FLAHERTY** (7 YEARS)
   **Record with Redskins:** 56-23-3

## THE COUNT

**18**
Receptions of 25 yards or more for Santana Moss in 2005, most in the NFL.

**35.9**
Redskins' league-leading third-down-conversion percentage with more than six yards to go in 2005.

**143.8**
Wide receiver, and former Indiana University quarterback, Antwaan Randle El's career NFL passer rating (including postseason).

The offense will continue to revolve around running back Clinton Portis, a workhorse with a career-high 352 carries this past season. Portis tried to convince another former University of Miami star, Edgerrin James, to join the Redskins in free agency to help carry the load, but Portis seems capable all by himself. He has reliable Ladell Betts and fullback Rock Cartwright to help.

Portis also enjoys playing general manager and approved of the additions of Lloyd and Randle El.

"That's what we were missing, and that's what we needed," Portis says of the acquisitions. "We've added now, and if they can produce like they did in San Francisco and Pittsburgh, we're going to be the team to beat. Coming out of the [2002] draft, I thought there were two players that got cheated—me and Randle El. I thought we were two of the most underrated players in the draft."

Lloyd and Randle El will take the defensive pressure off star receiver Santana Moss, who blossomed with 84 catches and nine touchdowns even after last year's free-agent pickup, David Patten, went down with a knee injury at midseason. H-back Chris Cooley ended up as the team's second receiver, but Saunders must adapt his offense to Cooley's skills. In Kansas City, the tight end has a much bigger role and there is no H-back. Cooley scored seven touchdowns and so did backup H-back Mike Sellers. Fauria is more of a receiving threat than departed starter Robert Royal, so Saunders has another weapon at his disposal.

Protecting Brunell is crucial because he has lost mobility. The Redskins expect guard Randy Thomas back from injury opposite Derrick Dockery, with bookend tackles Chris Samuels and Jon Jansen ready for their seventh years as starters.

## NFL DRAFT 2006 — DRAFT REPORT

After addressing many of their holes through free agency, one hole that still had to be filled was at linebacker, where LaVar Arrington needed to be replaced. Washington traded up in the second round to select **Rocky McIntosh**, who could start as a rookie. **Anthony Montgomery** is a massive widebody who excels against the run. **Reed Doughty** was a highly productive safety at Northern Colorado and will provide quality depth behind Adam Archuleta. **Kedric Golston** has size and athletic ability, but struggled some with injuries. **Kili Lefotu** is strong and excels in the running game, but will struggle to make this roster. **Kevin Simon** can play inside or outside, but he struggled with injuries as a collegian. Trading away this year's first-round draft choice for Jason Campbell also has to be figured into the final grade. This has the look of a three-player draft (Campbell, McIntosh and Doughty).

GRADE: **C**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | McIntosh, Roger | LB | 6-2 | 236 | Miami (FL) |
| 5 | 20 | Montgomery, Anthony | DT | 6-5 | 301 | Minnesota |
| 6 | 4 | Doughty, Reed | S | 6-1 | 208 | Northern Colorado |
| 6 | 27 | Golston, Kedric | DT | 6-4 | 301 | Georgia |
| 7 | 22 | Lefotu, Kili | G | 6-4 | 315 | Arizona |
| 7 | 42 | Simon, Kevin | LB | 5-10 | 236 | Tennessee |

**HE SAID IT:**

**The biggest misrepresentation there is that [it's because] Dan's got a lot of money. That's not it. We've got a rule. Believe me, if we had no rules, Dan would spend some money.**

*—Coach Joe Gibbs on owner Dan Snyder's free-agent spending in the offseason*

## 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 1** vs. Minnesota | SEPT. 11 | 7:00 |
| **WEEK 2** @ Dallas | SEPT. 17 | 8:15 |
| **WEEK 3** @ Houston | SEPT. 24 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 4** vs. Jacksonvile | OCT. 1 | 4:15 |
| **WEEK 5** @ New York Giants | OCT. 8 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 6** vs. Tennessee | OCT. 15 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 7** @ Indianapolis | OCT. 22 | 4:15 |
| **WEEK 8** *OPEN DATE* | | |
| **WEEK 9** vs. Dallas | NOV. 5 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 10** @ Philadelphia | NOV. 12 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 11** @ Tampa Bay | NOV. 19 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 12** vs. Carolina | NOV. 26 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 13** vs. Atlanta | DEC. 3 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 14** vs. Philadelphia | DEC. 10 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 15** @ New Orleans | DEC. 17 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 16** @ St. Louis | DEC. 24 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 17** vs. New York Giants | DEC. 30 | 8:00 |

★ **MUST-SEE GAME** ★

*By the end of the season, the futures of Coach Joe Gibbs and Defensive Coordinator Gregg Williams as well as young quarterbacks Jason Campbell of the Redskins and Eli Manning of the Giants will have clearer focus.*

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | W | 9-7 | Chicago |
| 09/19 | W | 14-13 | at Dallas |
| 10/02 | W | 20-17 | Seattle |
| 10/09 | L | 19-21 | at Denver |
| 10/16 | L | 21-28 | at Kansas City |
| 10/23 | W | 52-17 | San Francisco |
| 10/30 | L | 0-36 | at New York Giants |
| 11/06 | W | 17-10 | Philadelphia |
| 11/13 | L | 35-36 | at Tampa Bay |
| 11/20 | L | 13-16 | Oakland |
| 11/27 | L | 17-23 | San Diego |
| 12/04 | W | 24-9 | at St. Louis |
| 12/11 | W | 17-13 | at Arizona |
| 12/18 | W | 35-7 | Dallas |
| 12/24 | W | 35-20 | New York Giants |
| 01/01 | W | 31-20 | at Philadelphia |

WON **10**, LOST **6**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Portis | 352 | 1516 | 4.3 | 47t | 11 |
| Betts | 89 | 338 | 3.8 | 22 | 1 |
| Cartwright | 27 | 199 | 7.4 | 52 | 2 |
| Brunell | 42 | 111 | 2.6 | 25 | 0 |
| Thrash | 1 | 8 | 8.0 | 8 | 0 |
| A. Brown | 2 | 7 | 3.5 | 4 | 0 |
| Broughton | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| Ramsey | 7 | 3 | 0.4 | 5 | 0 |
| Sellers | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1t | 1 |
| Moss | 3 | -3 | -1.0 | 3 | 0 |
| **Redskins** | **525** | **2183** | **4.2** | **52** | **15** |
| **Opponents** | **411** | **1686** | **4.1** | **72t** | **15** |

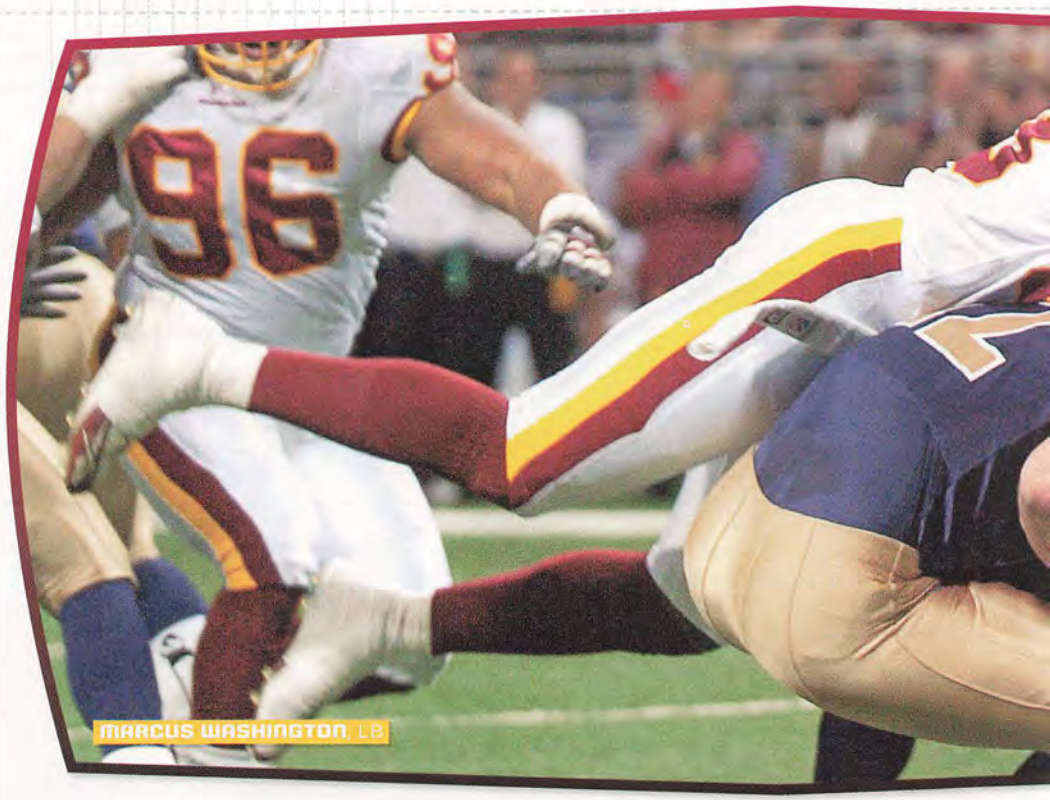
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Moss | 84 | 1483 | 17.7 | 78t | 9 |
| Cooley | 71 | 774 | 10.9 | 32 | 7 |
| Portis | 30 | 216 | 7.2 | 23 | 0 |
| Patten | 22 | 217 | 9.9 | 32 | 0 |
| Royal | 18 | 131 | 7.3 | 29 | 1 |
| Thrash | 14 | 194 | 13.9 | 41 | 0 |
| Sellers | 12 | 72 | 6.0 | 19t | 7 |
| Jacobs | 11 | 100 | 9.1 | 24 | 0 |
| Betts | 10 | 78 | 7.8 | 26 | 1 |
| Cartwright | 2 | 23 | 11.5 | 17 | 0 |
| Kozlowski | 2 | 26 | 13.0 | 18 | 0 |
| Farris | 1 | 18 | 18.0 | 18 | 0 |
| Johnson | 1 | 14 | 14.0 | 14 | 0 |
| **Redskins** | **278** | **3346** | **12.0** | **78t** | **25** |
| **Opponents** | **291** | **3318** | **11.4** | **70t** | **15** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brunell | 454 | 262 | 3050 | 23 | 10 |
| Ramsey | 25 | 15 | 279 | 1 | 1 |
| Portis | 2 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 0 |
| **Redskins** | **481** | **278** | **3346** | **25** | **11** |
| **Opponents** | **535** | **291** | **3318** | **15** | **16** |

**SACKS**

Daniels 8, Washington 7.5, Griffin 4, Evans 3, Prioleau 3, C. Clemons 2, Marshall 2, Taylor 1, Clark 0.5, Salave'a 0.5, Wynn 0.5

**Redskins 35, Opponents 31**


MARCUS WASHINGTON, LB

Casey Rabach is the center and two free agents, Tyson Walter from Houston and Mike Pucillo from Cleveland, were signed as backups with more experience than the other reserves—Jon Alston, Jim Jones, Ikechuku Ndukwe, Jonta Woodard and late draft pick Kili Lefotu.

The departure of linebacker LaVar Arrington subtracts a dynamic playmaker, but he and Williams didn't always see eye-to-eye and the team is prepared to move on without him. His backup, Chris Clemons, is coming off a knee injury, but is fully recovered. The Redskins also re-signed veteran Warrick Holdman and made Roger "Rocky" McIntosh their first draft selection.

Arrington, nursing an injury, started only eight games last season and whether he was playing or not, the stars of the defense were the other linebackers—Marcus Washington on the outside and Lemar Marshall in the middle.

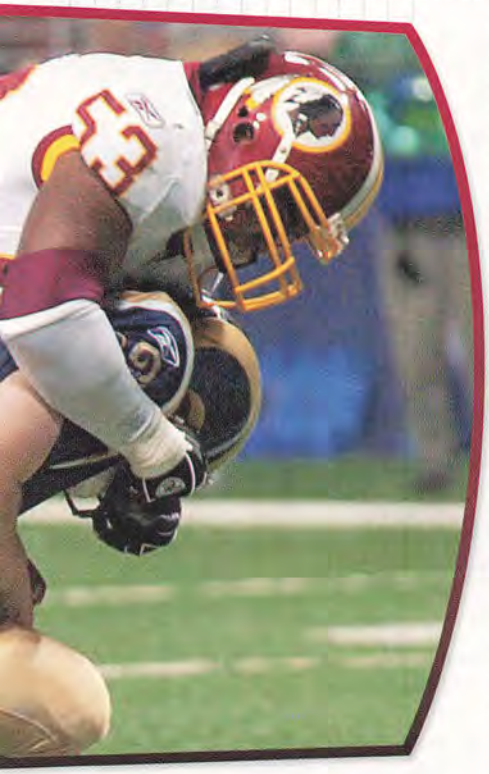
Marshall and Washington finished first and second, respectively on the team for total tackles. Marshall led the defense in interceptions with four and Washington was second to defensive end Phillip Daniels in sacks with 7.5, so linebacker remains a team strength even with Marshall coming off shoulder surgery. McIntosh can contribute at any linebacker spot and Khary Campbell, Robert McCune and draft pick Kevin Simon will compete for roster spots.

Although Carter played linebacker most of last season in San Francisco, he is projected at right end for the Redskins, with the bigger Daniels moving over to left end. That's where Renaldo Wynn started last year until suffering a broken arm in the playoffs. Wynn won't let go of his starting position easily, so Williams will have a strong end rotation along with holdover Demetric Evans. Nic Clemons and Ryan Boschetti add depth.

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Redskins)*

"The Redskins are the Redskins. They make a big splash every year. They go out and throw money around and throw it at the wrong players. They come in and have to fight to get to 8-8. They really weren't a playoff team. [Adam] Archuleta is just a guy. Brandon Lloyd is just a guy, not a difference-maker. Defensively, Gregg Williams is a magician. He's done more with less than any defensive coordinator in the league. They'll be good defensively, but offensively I think they'll go backwards because [Mark] Brunell is a year older. Al Saunders will put in a complete new offense and, if you look where it's been installed at new places, it takes two years for it to fire up. The first year he was in Kansas City, they were 6-10. It's a very complicated offense and different from anything Joe Gibbs is used to. I don't think they'll win eight games."



(L TO R): COURTESY NFL; PETER AIKEN / WIRE IMAGE.COM

Inside, Cornelius Griffin is a fixture at left tackle and Joe Salave'a is solid at right tackle and is backed by Cedric Killings. Wynn and Evans also have played tackle. Late-round draft picks Anthony Montgomery and Kedric Golston could also contribute as backups.

Archuleta replaces departed strong safety Ryan Clark, and is expected to join free safety Sean Taylor as the hardest-hitting safety tandem in football—provided Taylor is cleared of legal troubles before the season. If not, holdover Pierson Prioleau would join Archuleta with only practice squad member Curry Burns and late draft pick Reed Doughty in reserve. Losing Taylor would be a much bigger blow than losing Arrington.

At cornerback, Shawn Springs and Carlos Rogers are solid starters and newcomer Wright replaces departed Walt Harris as a third corner, with special teams player Ade Jimoh also squarely in the mix. Wright started last season for Jacksonville. Jimoh, Christian Morton and Dimitri Patterson all have limited experience. Punter Derrick Frost and placekicker John Hall are coming off below-average seasons, and Hall is also coming off an injury. Betts, Jimmy Farris and James Thrash will compete for kick-returning duties.

FINAL GRADE: 84 STOCK STEADY REPORT

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Antwaan Randle El**, WR (PIT)
- **Adam Archuleta**, DB (STL)
- **Andre Carter**, LB (SF)
- **Christian Fauria**, TE (NE)
- **Brandon Lloyd**, WR (trade, SF)
- **Todd Collins**, QB (KC)
- **Mike Pucillo**, OG (CLE)
- **Kenny Wright**, CB (JAX)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Robert Royal**, TE (BUF)
- **Matt Bowen**, DB (BUF)
- **Ryan Clark**, DB (PIT)
- **Patrick Ramsey**, QB (trade, NYJ)
- **Walt Harris**, CB (SF)
- **Omar Stoutmire**, DB (NO)
- **Andre Lott**, DB (SD)
- **LaVar Arrington**, LB (NYG)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 330.6 | 11 |
| Rushing | 136.4 | 7 |
| Passing | 194.1 | 21 |
| Scoring | 359 | 13 |
| Punt Returns | 6.0 | 28 |
| Kick Returns | 23.2 | 11 |
| Red Zone TD % | 63.8 | 3t |
| Total Defense | 297.9 | 9 |
| Against Rush | 105.4 | 13 |
| Against Pass | 192.6 | 10 |
| Points Allowed | 293 | 9 |
| Interceptions | 16 | 14t |
| Sacks | 35 | 20t |
| Turnover Diff. | +1 | 14t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 301 | 114 | 166 | 21 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 47 | 240 | 30 | 10 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | 25 | 2 | 2 |

## REDSKINS ROSTER

**Joe Gibbs, head coach**; **Al Saunders**, assoc. head coach/off.; **Gregg Williams**, asst. head coach/def.; **Joe Bugel**, asst. head coach/off.; **Don Breaux**, off. coord.; **Jack Burns**, off. asst.; **Rennie Simmons**, tight ends; **Earnest Byner**, running backs; **Stan Hixon**, wide receivers; **Bill Lazor**, quarterbacks; **Greg Blache**, def. coord./def. line; **Dale Lindsey**, linebackers; **Jerry Gray**, secondary/cornerbacks; **Steve Jackson**, passing game coord./safeties; **Danny Smith**, special teams; **Kirk Olivadotti**, def. line/special teams

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Bramlet, Casey | QB | 6-4 | 225 | 04/02/1981 | 0 | Wyoming |
| 8 | Brunell, Mark | QB | 6-1 | 217 | 09/17/1970 | 12 | Washington |
| 17 | Campbell, Jason | QB | 6-4 | 230 | 12/31/1981 | 0 | Auburn |
| 15 | Collins, Todd | QB | 6-4 | 228 | 11/05/1971 | 8 | Michigan |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 71 | Albright, Ethan | C | 6-5 | 265 | 05/01/1971 | 11 | North Carolina |
| 78 | Alston, Jon | T | 6-5 | 310 | 09/04/1982 | 0 | South Carolina |
| 66 | Dockery, Derrick | G | 6-6 | 335 | 09/07/1980 | 3 | Texas |
| 76 | Jansen, Jon | T | 6-6 | 308 | 01/28/1976 | 6 | Michigan |
| 69 | Molinaro, Jim | T | 6-6 | 310 | 04/27/1981 | 2 | Notre Dame |
| 68 | Ndukwe, Ikechuku | G | 6-3 | 330 | 07/17/1982 | 0 | Northwestern |
| 62 | Pucillo, Mike | G | 6-4 | 311 | 07/14/1979 | 3 | Auburn |
| 61 | Rabach, Casey | C | 6-4 | 295 | 09/24/1977 | 4 | Wisconsin |
| 60 | Samuels, Chris | T | 6-5 | 310 | 07/28/1977 | 6 | Alabama |
| 77 | Thomas, Randy | G | 6-5 | 310 | 01/19/1976 | 7 | Mississippi State |
| 72 | Walter, Tyson | G | 6-4 | 303 | 03/17/1978 | 3 | Ohio State |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 46 | Betts, Ladell | RB | 5-10 | 223 | 08/27/1979 | 4 | Iowa |
| 30 | Broughton, Nehemiah | RB | 5-11 | 255 | 11/04/1982 | 1 | Citadel |
| 39 | Carter, Kerry | RB | 6-1 | 238 | 12/19/1980 | 2 | Stanford |
| 31 | Cartwright, Rock | RB | 5-7 | 215 | 12/03/1979 | 4 | Kansas State |
| 26 | Portis, Clinton | RB | 5-11 | 212 | 09/01/1981 | 4 | Miami (FL) |
| 45 | Sellers, Mike | RB | 6-3 | 278 | 07/21/1975 | 6 | Walla Walla CC |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 13 | Cash, Ataveus | WR | 6-1 | 205 | 05/02/1979 | 0 | Hampton |
| 47 | Cooley, Chris | TE | 6-3 | 250 | 07/11/1982 | 2 | Utah State |
| 86 | Farris, Jimmy | WR | 6-0 | 195 | 04/13/1978 | 3 | Montana |
| 88 | Fauria, Christian | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 09/22/1971 | 11 | Colorado |
| 12 | Harris, Steven | WR | 5-10 | 192 | 11/10/1981 | 0 | Arkansas |
| 84 | Jacobs, Taylor | WR | 6-0 | 202 | 05/30/1981 | 3 | Florida |
| 87 | Johnson, Robert | TE | 6-6 | 278 | 06/20/1980 | 2 | Auburn |
| 18 | Johnson, Ron | WR | 6-2 | 225 | 05/23/1980 | 2 | Minnesota |
| 85 | Lloyd, Brandon | WR | 6-0 | 184 | 07/05/1981 | 3 | Illinois |
| 89 | Moss, Santana | WR | 5-10 | 190 | 06/01/1979 | 5 | Miami (FL) |
| 80 | Patten, David | WR | 5-10 | 190 | 08/19/1974 | 9 | Western Carolina |
| 41 | Powell, Calen | TE | 6-5 | 255 | 02/16/1981 | 0 | Duke |
| 82 | Randle El, Antwaan | WR | 5-10 | 192 | 08/17/1979 | 4 | Indiana |
| 16 | Smith, Richard | WR | 5-10 | 191 | 07/16/1980 | 1 | Arkansas |
| 83 | Thrash, James | WR | 6-0 | 205 | 04/28/1975 | 9 | Missouri Southern St. |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 73 | Boschetti, Ryan | DT | 6-4 | 305 | 10/07/1981 | 2 | UCLA |
| 90 | Clemons, Nic | DE | 6-6 | 298 | 02/03/1980 | 1 | Georgia |
| 93 | Daniels, Phillip | DE | 6-3 | 290 | 03/04/1973 | 10 | Georgia |
| 92 | Evans, Demetric | DE | 6-3 | 285 | 09/03/1979 | 4 | Georgia |
| 96 | Griffin, Cornelius | DT | 6-3 | 310 | 12/03/1976 | 6 | Alabama |
| 91 | Killings, Cedric | DT | 6-2 | 310 | 12/14/1977 | 3 | Carson-Newman |
| 75 | Riley, Karon | DE | 6-2 | 268 | 08/23/1978 | 4 | Minnesota |
| 95 | Salave'a, Joe | DT | 6-3 | 317 | 03/23/1975 | 7 | Arizona |
| 97 | Wynn, Renaldo | DE | 6-3 | 285 | 09/03/1974 | 9 | Notre Dame |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 40 | Archuleta, Adam | S | 6-0 | 223 | 11/27/1977 | 5 | Arizona State |
| 29 | Burns, Curry | S | 6-0 | 203 | 02/12/1981 | 2 | Louisville |
| 32 | Jimoh, Ade | CB | 6-1 | 195 | 04/18/1980 | 3 | Utah State |
| 35 | Morton, Christian | CB | 6-0 | 180 | 04/28/1981 | 2 | Illinois |
| 34 | Patterson, Dimitri | CB | 5-11 | 196 | 06/18/1983 | 1 | Tuskegee |
| 20 | Prioleau, Pierson | S | 5-11 | 185 | 08/06/1977 | 7 | Virginia Tech |
| 22 | Rogers, Carlos | CB | 6-0 | 192 | 07/02/1981 | 1 | Auburn |
| 24 | Springs, Shawn | CB | 6-0 | 200 | 03/11/1975 | 9 | Ohio State |
| 21 | Taylor, Sean | S | 6-2 | 232 | 04/01/1983 | 2 | Miami (FL) |
| 25 | Wright, Kenny | CB | 6-1 | 207 | 09/14/1977 | 7 | Northwestern St. |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 50 | Campbell, Khary | LB | 6-3 | 232 | 04/04/1979 | 4 | Bowling Green |
| 99 | Carter, Andre | LB | 6-4 | 265 | 05/12/1979 | 5 | California |
| 58 | Clemons, Chris | LB | 6-3 | 240 | 10/30/1981 | 2 | Georgia |
| 57 | Holdman, Warrick | LB | 6-1 | 243 | 11/22/1975 | 7 | Texas A&M |
| 98 | Marshall, Lemar | LB | 6-2 | 232 | 12/17/1976 | 4 | Michigan State |
| 59 | McCune, Robert | LB | 6-0 | 240 | 03/09/1979 | 1 | Louisville |
| 53 | Washington, Marcus | LB | 6-3 | 250 | 10/17/1977 | 6 | Auburn |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 4 | Frost, Derrick | P | 6-4 | 200 | 11/25/1980 | 2 | Northern Iowa |
| 10 | Hall, John | K | 6-3 | 240 | 03/17/1974 | 9 | Wisconsin |

2005 RECORD: 6-10 | www.philadelphiaeagles.com

# PHILADELPHIA

## EAGLES

NFC EAST #4

LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD
CAPACITY: 68,532 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 215-463-5500

### POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 4 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 3 |
| RECEIVERS | 1 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| LINEBACKERS | 2 |
| SECONDARY | 5 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 2 |
| MANAGEMENT | 3 |

### PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Donovan McNabb | LE | Jevon Kearse | P | Dirk Johnson |
| FB | Josh Parry | LT | Mike Patterson | PR | Reno Mahe |
| RB | Brian Westbrook | RT | Brodrick Bunkley | H | David Akers |
| LT | William Thomas | RE | Darren Howard | KR | Roderick Hood |
| LG | Todd Herremans | LLB | Mark Simoneau | | |
| C | Jamaal Jackson | MLB | Jeremiah Trotter | | |
| RG | Shawn Andrews | RLB | Shawn Barber | | |
| RT | Jon Runyan | LCB | Sheldon Brown | | |
| TE | L.J. Smith | RCB | Lito Sheppard | | |
| WR | Greg Lewis | SS | Michael Lewis | | |
| WR | Reggie Brown | FS | Brian Dawkins | | |

**ON THE RISE**

**MIKE PATTERSON**
defensive tackle
Showed why the Eagles thought they could do without Corey Simon.

**FADING FAST**

**WILLIAM THOMAS**
offensive tackle
His eighth season ended on injured reserve and he's no longer dominant because of back problems.

# Removing the poison

## Andy Reid is banking that T.O.'s flight from the Eagles will produce a successful chemistry experiment in the City of Brotherly Love.

The Philadelphia Eagles are embarking on one of the foremost chemistry experiments in NFL history. They are going to find out if extracting the cause of a poisonous presence can indeed turn a sour taste into a sweet one.

By Coach Andy Reid's mathematical computation, he figures his team minus disruptive receiver Terrell Owens will enjoy a net gain. But he typically doesn't talk a lot about it, knowing that the results of the experiment will speak loudest.

Quarterback Donovan McNabb originally got into hot water with Owens when he innocently and correctly pointed out that the Eagles also won before Owens arrived. Owens thought he deserved more love, as well as money, for helping the team get to the Super Bowl in the 2004 season.

Now, the Eagles plan to go back to the way they played before Owens, which got them to the NFC title games in 2001, 2002 and 2003.

"I don't think you have to have the superstar," Reid bravely says. "I think if you stay relatively healthy, toward the end of the year you're going to be OK. I think that showed when we played Carolina [in the 2003 NFC Championship Game]. We were banged up and missing some players I thought were important to the mix. I think you have to have guys who can catch the football and run routes. They don't have to be great players. They can be good players and do the things that are asked from them in the offense."

So the Eagles didn't try to replace Owens with Eric Moulds or Antwaan Randle El or Keyshawn Johnson or Nate Burleson or David Givens, all marquee free-agent receivers. Instead, they signed Houston castoff Jabar Gaffney, who caught 55 passes for 492 yards and two touchdowns while only averaging 8.9 yards per catch last year.

The hope is for Gaffney to fit into a stable of targets for McNabb, who has wondered aloud why his team wasn't more aggressive in pursuing free agents. But nobody spreads the ball around better than McNabb.

Recovering from the assortment of ailments that destroyed last season and

NFL HELMET COURTESY SCOREHERE.COM. AVAILABLE FOR ORDER AT WWW.SCOREHERE.COM OR CALL: 800-784-2990.

## THE BOOK ON ... DONOVAN McNABB

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"I think McNabb may have run his course. I think people maybe have figured out McNabb. He's coming off surgery. Will he be more aggressive? Will he run the ball more? The last couple years he's chosen not to run. I think he's going to need to get out on the perimeter and, if he gets a chance to run, he needs to run for 10 yards. He's going to get frustrated because defenses are going to creep up on him because there's no Terrell Owens. He's still a top-level quarterback. I just see that his weapons have diminished. It's asking too much for him to carry them."

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; BRUCE SCHWARTZMAN

### FACT

Of the Eagles' 22 Week One starters in 2005, only 11 started for the team in the season finale.

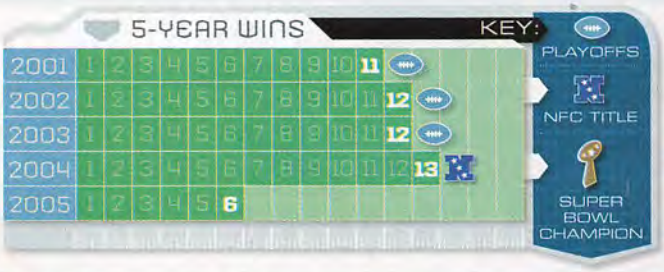
### STAT

Outside of Terrell Owens, the four other wide receivers who played for the Eagles in 2005 had a combined 194 catches and 14 touchdowns in their careers. Owens, now with Dallas, has amassed 716 receptions—101 catches for TDs—in his career.

### LOOK IT UP

The 2005 Eagles were the first team in NFL history to go winless in their division one season after posting an unbeaten record in divisional games.

### 5-YEAR WINS




### EAGLES' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **GREASY NEALE** (10 YEARS)
   **Record with Eagles:** 66-44-5
2. **ANDY REID** (7 YEARS)
   **Record with Eagles:** 77-47
3. **DICK VERMEIL** (7 YEARS)
   **Record with Eagles:** 57-51

### THE COUNT

**50.3**
The Eagles' team passer rating over the last eight weeks of the 2005 season, lowest in the NFL.

**204**
The decrease in the Eagles' point differential from 2004 (+126) to 2005 (-78).

**.388**
Winning percentage of the 2005 Eagles, and the combined winning percentage of the last five NFL teams that had lost the previous season's Super Bowl.

ended in surgery to repair a sports hernia, McNabb remains the top quarterback in the tough NFC East. Without Owens, the locker-room pressure is off. But on the field, the pressure on McNabb will be greater than before to return to a Super Bowl and win it.

The Eagles are counting on a big second-year leap from receiver Reggie Brown, who was thrown into the lineup after the suspension of Owens. He and Greg Lewis, who ended up leading the wideouts in receptions, are the starters. Gaffney, Billy McMullen and Darnerien McCants are the reserves and Todd Pinkston is hopefully healthy after an Achilles rupture ended his 2005 season before it began. Reid also likes fourth-round pick Jason Avant and says fifth-round pick and former Olympic skier Jeremy Bloom is intriguing.

Tight end L.J. Smith and running back Brian Westbrook shared the team lead in receptions with 61 apiece, evidence that Reid's attack uses every available weapon. Only the Cardinals and Raiders ran fewer times than the Eagles. Reid always says he would like more balance, but it's never the top priority.

Westbrook's health is paramount. He suffered a foot injury in December and needs to be 100 percent before the offense can expect to operate smoothly. Second-year rusher Ryan Moats has similar skills, giving Reid some depth, but neither back is big enough to absorb typical running-back punishment, nor is either expected to carry heavy loads.

Tight end Matt Schobel was signed from Cincinnati, where he caught only 18 passes, but should be a strong counterpart to Smith.

Behind McNabb are Jeff Garcia and Koy Detmer after the exit of Mike McMahon, so McNabb's continued health again is as important as anything Owens could provide. Garcia rejoins new

## NFL DRAFT 2006 DRAFT REPORT

The Eagles entered the draft intending to upgrade the talent on both lines. **Brodrick Bunkley** was added in the first round and will push Corey Simon. Once considered a sure thing for the first half of Round One, **Winston Justice** slid all the way to No. 39 overall due to his questionable past. **Chris Gocong** is a DE/OLB 'tweener who will likely be tried first at the SAM linebacker position. **Max Jean-Gilles** was considered a sure second-round talent, but slipped to the early fourth. He could prove to be one of the top values in this draft. The Eagles sent OG/OT Artis Hicks to Minnesota for additional picks. **Jason Avant** is a possession receiver with good size. **Jeremy Bloom** has not played football for two years, but could help the return game. Outside linebacker **Omar Gaither** should fit in well with the attacking Philly defense. Southern Cal defensive tackle **LaJuan Ramsey** comes highly recommended by Trojans Coach Pete Carroll. Defensive tackle Hollis Thomas was sent to New Orleans for additional draft choices. The two offensive linemen will impact this team for years.

GRADE: **B+**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 14 | Bunkley, Brodrick | DT | 6-3 | 307 | Florida State |
| 2 | 7 | Justice, Winston | T | 6-6 | 320 | USC |
| 3 | 7 | Gocong, Chris | DE | 6-0 | 264 | Cal Poly |
| 4 | 2 | Jean-Gilles, Max | G | 6-4 | 356 | Georgia |
| 4 | 12 | Avant, Jason | WR | 6-0 | 213 | Michigan |
| 5 | 14 | Bloom, Jeremy | WR | 5-9 | 172 | Colorado |
| 5 | 35 | Gaither, Omar | LB | 6-1 | 233 | Tennessee |
| 6 | 35 | Ramsey, LaJuan | DT | 6-2 | 296 | USC |

### 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 1** @ Houston | SEPT. 10 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 2** vs. New York Giants | SEPT. 17 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 3** @ San Francisco | SEPT. 24 | 4:15 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 4** vs. Green Bay | OCT. 2 | 8:30 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 5** vs. Dallas | OCT. 8 | 4:15 |
| ★ MUST-SEE GAME ★ *The return of Terrell Owens will test the 'City of Brotherly Love.'* | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 6** @ New Orleans | OCT. 15 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 7** @ Tampa Bay | OCT. 22 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 8** vs. Jacksonville | OCT. 29 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 9** *OPEN DATE* | | |
| **WEEK 10** vs. Washington | NOV. 12 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 11** vs. Tennessee | NOV. 19 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 12** @ Indianapolis | NOV. 26 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 13** vs. Carolina | DEC. 4 | 8:30 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 14** @ Washington | DEC. 10 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 15** @ New York Giants | DEC. 17 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 16** @ Dallas | DEC. 25 | 5:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 17** vs. Atlanta | DEC. 31 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/12 | L | 10-14 | at Atlanta |
| 09/18 | W | 42-3 | San Francisco |
| 09/25 | W | 23-20 | Oakland |
| 10/02 | W | 37-31 | at Kansas City |
| 10/09 | L | 10-33 | at Dallas |
| 10/23 | W | 20-17 | San Diego |
| 10/30 | L | 21-49 | at Denver |
| 11/06 | L | 10-17 | at Washington |
| 11/14 | L | 20-21 | Dallas |
| 11/20 | L | 17-27 | at New York Giants |
| 11/27 | W | 19-14 | Green Bay |
| 12/05 | L | 0-42 | Seattle |
| 12/11 | L | 23-26 | New York Giants |
| 12/18 | W | 17-16 | at St. Louis |
| 12/24 | L | 21-27 | at Arizona |
| 01/01 | L | 20-31 | Washington |

WON **6**, LOST **10**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Westbrook | 156 | 617 | 4.0 | 31 | 3 |
| Moats | 55 | 278 | 5.1 | 59t | 3 |
| Gordon | 54 | 182 | 3.4 | 11 | 1 |
| McMahon | 34 | 118 | 3.5 | 19 | 3 |
| Mahe | 20 | 87 | 4.4 | 13 | 0 |
| Perry | 16 | 74 | 4.6 | 11 | 0 |
| McNabb | 25 | 55 | 2.2 | 11 | 1 |
| G. Lewis | 2 | 13 | 6.5 | 8 | 0 |
| R. Brown | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| Owens | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Detmer | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 |
| **Eagles** | **365** | **1432** | **3.9** | **59t** | **11** |
| **Opponents** | **506** | **1883** | **3.7** | **67t** | **15** |

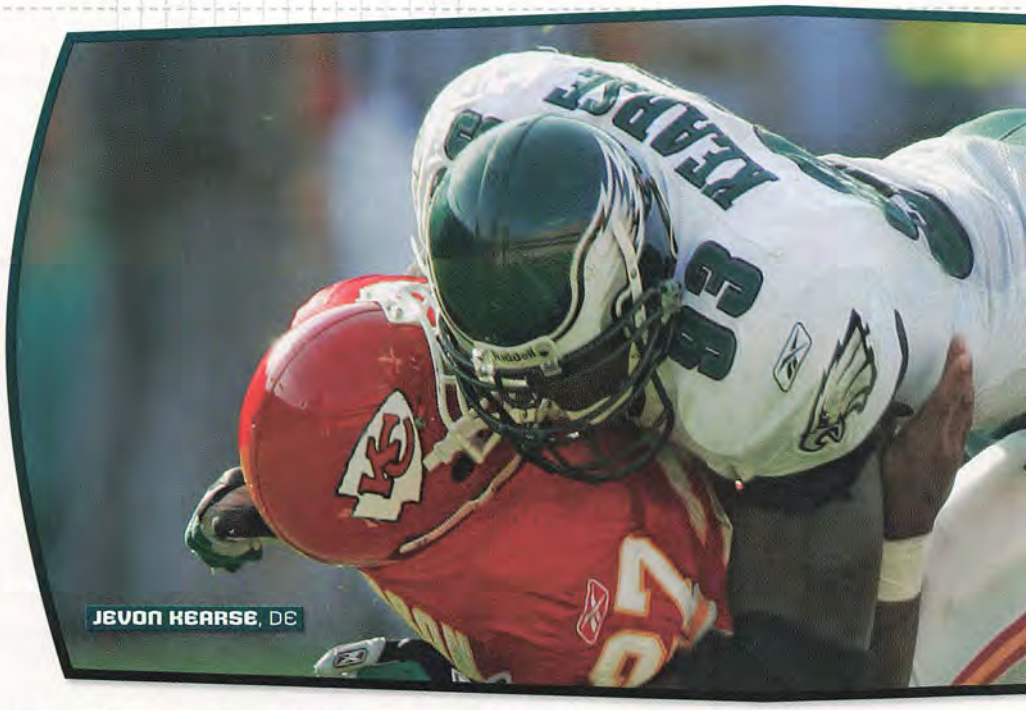
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Smith | 61 | 682 | 11.2 | 48 | 3 |
| Westbrook | 61 | 616 | 10.1 | 62 | 4 |
| G. Lewis | 48 | 561 | 11.7 | 34 | 1 |
| Owens | 47 | 763 | 16.2 | 91t | 6 |
| R. Brown | 43 | 571 | 13.3 | 56t | 4 |
| McMullen | 18 | 268 | 14.9 | 38 | 1 |
| Parry | 13 | 89 | 6.8 | 13 | 0 |
| Mahe | 12 | 68 | 5.7 | 12 | 0 |
| Gordon | 11 | 79 | 7.2 | 18 | 0 |
| Spach | 7 | 42 | 6.0 | 8 | 0 |
| C. Lewis | 5 | 64 | 12.8 | 17 | 0 |
| McCants | 5 | 87 | 17.4 | 22 | 0 |
| Moats | 4 | 7 | 1.8 | 9 | 0 |
| Bartrum | 2 | 6 | 3.0 | 3t | 2 |
| **Eagles** | **337** | **3903** | **11.6** | **91t** | **21** |
| **Opponents** | **297** | **3507** | **11.8** | **61t** | **24** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| McNabb | 357 | 211 | 2507 | 16 | 9 |
| McMahon | 207 | 94 | 1158 | 5 | 8 |
| Detmer | 56 | 32 | 238 | 0 | 3 |
| **Eagles** | **620** | **337** | **3903** | **21** | **20** |
| **Opponents** | **503** | **297** | **3507** | **24** | **17** |

**SACKS**

Kearse 7.5, Cole 5, Dawkins 3.5, Patterson 3.5, Walker 2.5, Kalu 2, S. Brown 1, M. Lewis 1, Rayburn 1, Sheppard 1, Trotter 1

**Eagles 29, Opponents 42**




Offensive Coordinator Marty Mornhinweg, who worked with him in San Francisco.

The re-signing of right tackle Jon Runyan keeps the offensive line a team strength and ex-lineman Reid made it stronger in the draft. With huge right guard Shawn Andrews, the Eagles have a formidable right side. Jamaal Jackson played for injured center Hank Fraley, and both are back. The left side will change, however. Left tackle William Thomas, who battles back trouble, is back from injury, but second-round pick Winston Justice from USC could push for playing time at either tackle.

Reid traded tackle/guard Artis Hicks to Minnesota and also traded up to draft 356-pound fourth-round pick Max Jean-Gilles, who could compete with second-year man Todd Herremans at left guard. Adrien Clarke also returns after starting four games at left guard. Scott Young, Trey Darilek and Calvin Armstrong are backups.

The Eagles made bigger offseason signings on defense, proof that Owens wasn't their only concern. The addition of defensive end Darren Howard from New Orleans and the return of linebacker Shawn Barber from Kansas City are supposed to shore up coordinator Jim Johnson's unit that fell from 10th in 2004 to 23rd in 2005 in total defense.

At 6-3 and 275 pounds, Howard is bigger than pass rusher Trent Cole, who ended up starting at right end opposite Jevon Kearse. Cole had an impressive rookie season with five sacks and so did rookie defensive tackle Mike Patterson, who led all linemen in tackles. But the Eagles plan to be stouter against the run than last year's ranking of 21st, so they drafted tackle Brodrick Bunkley in the first round and signed Ed Jasper from Oakland. Both Darwin Walker and Sam Rayburn need to step up. Hollis Thomas was traded to New Orleans in the deal that produced Jean-Gilles.

The return of defensive end Jerome McDougle also is expected after a full recovery from a gunshot wound to his abdomen before last season. Kearse led the team with 7.5 sacks and is the player other teams double.

Neither starter at outside linebacker—Keith Adams, who left for Carolina, or Dhani Jones—

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Eagles)*

"They've got problems. They've got no wideouts. They don't really have a bell-cow running back. Their offense goes as [Donovan] McNabb goes and he's handcuffed right now because they don't really have anybody who scares you on offense. Brian Westbrook is a good player but he doesn't scare you. Terrell Owens scared you. Westbrook is not durable. He stayed healthy only in the Super Bowl year. They were better as an offensive team before Terrell got there, but they were also playing in a bad division. Now those other three teams are good. They're going up while Philly is going down. It wouldn't surprise me if Philly ended up fourth in that division. Defensively, they're getting a little long in the tooth. [Shawn] Barber has been injured the last two years and isn't a difference-maker. [Darren] Howard will help if healthy, but he has also been injured."

provided the kinds of big plays that the Eagles would like. They are hoping Barber, who played well for the Eagles in 2002, has more success than he found in his three seasons with the Chiefs. Jeremiah Trotter remains solid in the middle. Former starter Mark Simoneau and second-year prospect Matt McCoy provide depth, while third-round pick Chris Gocong, who had 23.5 sacks at Cal Poly last year, could help at either linebacker position or in the pass rush.

With cornerbacks Sheldon Brown and Lito Sheppard and safeties Brian Dawkins and Michael Lewis, no team boasts a better secondary. However, Sheppard is coming off an ankle injury. Brown is the lone member who hasn't made the Pro Bowl, but not because he isn't deserving. He led the team in interceptions with four and scored two defensive touchdowns in 2005.

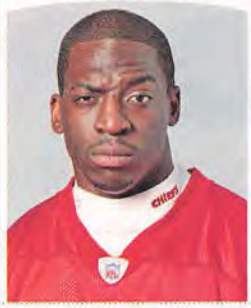
The depth in the secondary is good with the likes of Roderick Hood, Matt Ware, Donald Strickland, Dexter Wynn and Quintin Mikell.

The Eagles had to know last year was a washout when both punter Dirk Johnson and placekicker David Akers were hurt. Both are healthy now. Backup running back Bruce Perry handles the kickoff-return responsibility with help from Hood and Wynn. Reno Mahe led the NFL in punt-return average at 12.8 yards and Bloom will certainly get a look there as well.

(L TO R): DREW HALLOWELL / WIRE IMAGE.COM; COURTESY NFL

FINAL GRADE: 78 STOCK STEADY REPORT

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS



- **Shawn Barber**, LB (KC)
- **Jeff Garcia**, QB (DET)
- **Jabar Gaffney**, WR (HOU)
- **Darren Howard**, DE (NO)
- **Matt Schobel**, TE (CIN)
- **Ed Jasper**, DT (OAK)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Terrell Owens**, WR (DAL)
- **N.D. Kalu**, DE (HOU)
- **Mike McMahon**, QB (MIN)
- **Keith Adams**, LB (CAR)
- **Hollis Thomas**, DT (trade, NO)
- **Artis Hicks**, OG (trade, MIN)
- **Jack Brewer**, DB (ARI)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 319.3 | 19 |
| Rushing | 89.5 | 28 |
| Passing | 229.8 | 8 |
| Scoring | 310 | 18 |
| Punt Returns | 8.5 | 11t |
| Kick Returns | 22.2 | 14t |
| Red Zone TD % | 53.7 | 12 |
| Total Defense | 325.4 | 23 |
| Against Rush | 117.7 | 21 |
| Against Pass | 207.7 | 21 |
| Points Allowed | 388 | 27 |
| Interceptions | 17 | 10t |
| Sacks | 29 | 26t |
| Turnover Diff. | -7 | 23t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 282 | 73 | 182 | 27 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | PG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 41 | 190 | 22 | 12 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | 21 | 1 | 2 |

## EAGLES ROSTER

**Andy Reid, head coach**; **Marty Mornhinweg**, asst. head coach/off. coord.; **Jim Johnson**, def. coord.; **John Harbaugh**, special teams coord.; **Tommy Brasher**, def. line; **Pete Jenkins**, def. line; **Juan Castillo**, off. line; **David Culley**, wide receivers; **Tom Melvin**, tight ends; **Sean McDermott**, secondary/safeties; **Mike Reed**, def. asst.; **Bill Shuey**, off. asst.; **Pat Shurmur**, quarterbacks; **Steve Spagnuolo**, linebackers; **Trent Walters**, secondary; **Ted Williams**, running backs

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | Detmer, Koy | QB | 6-1 | 195 | 07/05/1973 | 8 | Colorado |
| 7 | Garcia, Jeff | QB | 6-1 | 200 | 02/24/1970 | 7 | San Jose State |
| 5 | McNabb, Donovan | QB | 6-2 | 240 | 11/25/1976 | 7 | Syracuse |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 73 | Andrews, Shawn | G | 6-4 | 340 | 12/25/1982 | 2 | Arkansas |
| 76 | Armstrong, Calvin | T | 6-7 | 325 | 03/31/1982 | 0 | Washington State |
| 61 | Clarke, Adrien | G | 6-5 | 330 | 03/26/1981 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 66 | Darilek, Trey | G | 6-5 | 310 | 04/23/1981 | 2 | UTEP |
| 63 | Fraley, Hank | C | 6-2 | 300 | 09/21/1977 | 5 | Robert Morris |
| 79 | Herremans, Todd | T | 6-6 | 321 | 10/13/1982 | 1 | Saginaw Valley St. |
| 67 | Jackson, Jamaal | G | 6-4 | 330 | 05/08/1980 | 1 | Delaware State |
| 69 | Runyan, Jon | T | 6-7 | 330 | 11/27/1973 | 10 | Michigan |
| 72 | Thomas, William | T | 6-7 | 349 | 11/20/1974 | 8 | Florida State |
| 71 | Young, Scott | G | 6-4 | 312 | 07/15/1981 | 0 | Brigham Young |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 28 | Buckhalter, Correll | RB | 6-0 | 222 | 10/06/1978 | 2 | Nebraska |
| 34 | Mahe, Reno | RB | 5-10 | 212 | 06/03/1980 | 3 | Brigham Young |
| 23 | Moats, Ryan | RB | 5-8 | 210 | 12/17/1982 | 1 | Louisiana Tech |
| 49 | Parry, Josh | RB | 6-2 | 250 | 04/05/1978 | 2 | San Jose State |
| 35 | Perry, Bruce | RB | 5-10 | 200 | 03/22/1981 | 1 | Maryland |
| 36 | Westbrook, Brian | RB | 5-8 | 203 | 09/02/1979 | 4 | Villanova |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 88 | Bartrum, Mike | TE | 6-4 | 245 | 06/23/1970 | 12 | Marshall |
| 86 | Brown, Reggie | WR | 6-1 | 197 | 01/13/1981 | 1 | Georgia |
| 48 | Crafts, Jonas | TE | 6-3 | 245 | 12/29/1981 | 0 | UTEP |
| 19 | Ford, Carl | WR | 6-0 | 182 | 10/08/1980 | 1 | Toledo |
| 84 | Gaffney, Jabar | WR | 6-1 | 205 | 12/01/1980 | 4 | Florida |
| 84 | Gasperson, Michael | WR | 6-4 | 215 | 06/06/1982 | 0 | San Diego |
| 83 | Lewis, Greg | WR | 6-0 | 180 | 02/12/1980 | 3 | Illinois |
| 85 | McCants, Darnerien | WR | 6-3 | 215 | 08/01/1977 | 4 | Delaware State |
| 80 | McMullen, Billy | WR | 6-4 | 215 | 03/08/1980 | 3 | Virginia |
| 87 | Pinkston, Todd | WR | 6-3 | 180 | 04/23/1977 | 5 | Southern Miss |
| 89 | Schobel, Matt | TE | 6-5 | 255 | 11/04/1978 | 4 | TCU |
| 82 | Smith, L.J. | TE | 6-3 | 258 | 05/13/1980 | 3 | Rutgers |
| 41 | Spach, Stephen | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 07/18/1982 | 1 | Fresno State |
| 47 | Thorn, Andy | TE | 6-5 | 250 | 02/04/1982 | 0 | Northern Iowa |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 96 | Grasmanis, Paul | DT | 6-3 | 298 | 08/02/1974 | 10 | Notre Dame |
| 90 | Howard, Darren | DE | 6-3 | 275 | 11/19/1976 | 6 | Kansas State |
| 94 | Jasper, Ed | DT | 6-2 | 295 | 01/18/1973 | 9 | Texas A&M |
| 93 | Kearse, Jevon | DE | 6-4 | 265 | 09/03/1976 | 7 | Florida |
| 68 | Lee, Darrell | DE | 6-4 | 273 | 06/28/1982 | 0 | Florida |
| 65 | Marshall, Keyonta | DT | 6-1 | 325 | 08/13/1981 | 1 | Grand Valley State |
| 98 | Patterson, Mike | DT | 6-0 | 292 | 09/01/1983 | 1 | USC |
| 91 | Rayburn, Sam | DT | 6-3 | 303 | 10/20/1980 | 3 | Tulsa |
| 75 | Thomas, Juqua | DE | 6-2 | 250 | 05/15/1978 | 5 | Oklahoma State |
| 97 | Walker, Darwin | DT | 6-3 | 294 | 06/15/1977 | 6 | Tennessee |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 24 | Brown, Sheldon | CB | 5-10 | 200 | 03/19/1979 | 4 | South Carolina |
| 45 | Canonico, Ed | S | 6-1 | 180 | 09/17/1978 | 0 | Sacramento State |
| 37 | Considine, Sean | S | 6-0 | 212 | 10/28/1981 | 1 | Iowa |
| 20 | Dawkins, Brian | S | 6-0 | 210 | 10/13/1973 | 10 | Clemson |
| 29 | Hood, Roderick | CB | 5-11 | 196 | 10/03/1981 | 3 | Auburn |
| 32 | Lewis, Michael | S | 6-1 | 222 | 04/29/1980 | 4 | Colorado |
| 27 | Mikell, Quintin | S | 5-10 | 206 | 09/16/1980 | 3 | Boise State |
| 26 | Sheppard, Lito | CB | 5-10 | 194 | 04/08/1981 | 4 | Florida |
| 33 | Strickland, Donald | CB | 5-10 | 187 | 11/24/1980 | 3 | Colorado |
| 21 | Ware, Matt | CB | 6-2 | 210 | 12/02/1982 | 2 | UCLA |
| 31 | Wynn, Dexter | CB | 5-9 | 177 | 02/25/1981 | 2 | Colorado State |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 59 | Barber, Shawn | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 01/14/1975 | 8 | Richmond |
| 58 | Cole, Trent | LB | 6-3 | 260 | 10/05/1982 | 1 | Cincinnati |
| 55 | Jones, Dhani | LB | 6-1 | 240 | 02/22/1978 | 5 | Michigan |
| 51 | McCoy, Matt | LB | 5-11 | 230 | 10/14/1982 | 1 | San Diego State |
| 59 | Roper, Dedrick | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 07/31/1981 | 1 | Northwood (MI) |
| 52 | Short, Jason | LB | 6-4 | 254 | 07/15/1978 | 2 | Eastern Michigan |
| 53 | Simoneau, Mark | LB | 6-0 | 245 | 01/16/1977 | 6 | Kansas State |
| 54 | Trotter, Jeremiah | LB | 6-1 | 262 | 01/20/1977 | 8 | Stephen F. Austin |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 2 | Akers, David | K | 5-10 | 200 | 12/09/1974 | 8 | Louisville |
| 3 | Hodges, Reggie | P | 6-0 | 226 | 01/26/1987 | 1 | Ball State |
| 8 | Johnson, Dirk | P | 6-0 | 205 | 06/01/1975 | 4 | Northern Colorado |

# NFC NORTH

## Bears should 'Lovie' playing in a division with three rookie head coaches

By **Don Pierson** *Chicago Tribune*

The Chicago Bears jumped from last to first without much competition last year. This season, Coach-of-the-Year Lovie Smith has the easiest schedule in the league and gets to play his first three games against the new head coaches in the NFC North—Green Bay's Mike McCarthy, Detroit's Rod Marinelli and Minnesota's Brad Childress.

With all starters back and added help from a healthy quarterback (Rex Grossman) and running back (Cedric Benson), the Bears will be disappointed if the division isn't a steppingstone to bigger things. They already have the No. 2 defense in the league.

With Minnesota's Daunte Culpepper and Detroit's Joey Harrington both being traded to Miami in the offseason, and an aging Brett Favre back for another fling in Green Bay following his worst year, the Bears believe they are finally narrowing the gap at quarterback, provided Grossman stays healthy.

In three seasons, Grossman hasn't played more than three games, so the Bears signed veteran Brian Griese from Tampa Bay. Griese plans to be more than a stopgap reserve and the Bears have shown signs of allowing him to compete for the starting job.

Although they added no starters in the offseason, they signed two reserve defensive backs from Carolina, Ricky Manning Jr. and Dante Wesley. If they can provide any secrets about how to cover Carolina's Steve Smith, the Bears will be listening. In two games against the Bears' vaunted defense last season, Smith caught 26 passes for 387 yards and two touchdowns.

The Chicago defense also caved in to Pittsburgh on the ground in a December pounding and ended up losing its No. 1 ranking to Tampa Bay, so there definitely is room for improvement.

**PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:**


1 p.134
2 p.138
3 p.142
4 p.146


Everybody forgets that the Vikings finished 9-7 last year after their season was disrupted by the "Love Boat" scandal and another devastating injury to Culpepper. Childress thought he was getting a dream job and a franchise quarterback until Culpepper started reminding the coach of Terrell Owens. That paved the way for a quick trade to Miami.

Brad Johnson will be 38 and is certainly not the long-term answer at quarterback, but could be better suited to help Childress install his new offense. With Seattle guard Steve Hutchinson, Philadelphia guard/tackle Artis Hicks, Kansas City fullback Tony Richardson and Baltimore running back Chester Taylor now on board, the running game will get more attention.

Even though Childress is an offensive coach, he spent plenty of time addressing defense in the draft and free agency, knowing that it usually rules the division.

At Green Bay, Favre spent his offseason warning anybody who was listening that the team could go 4-12 again, with or without him. And that was before top receiver Javon Walker got his wish to leave granted, landing in Denver.

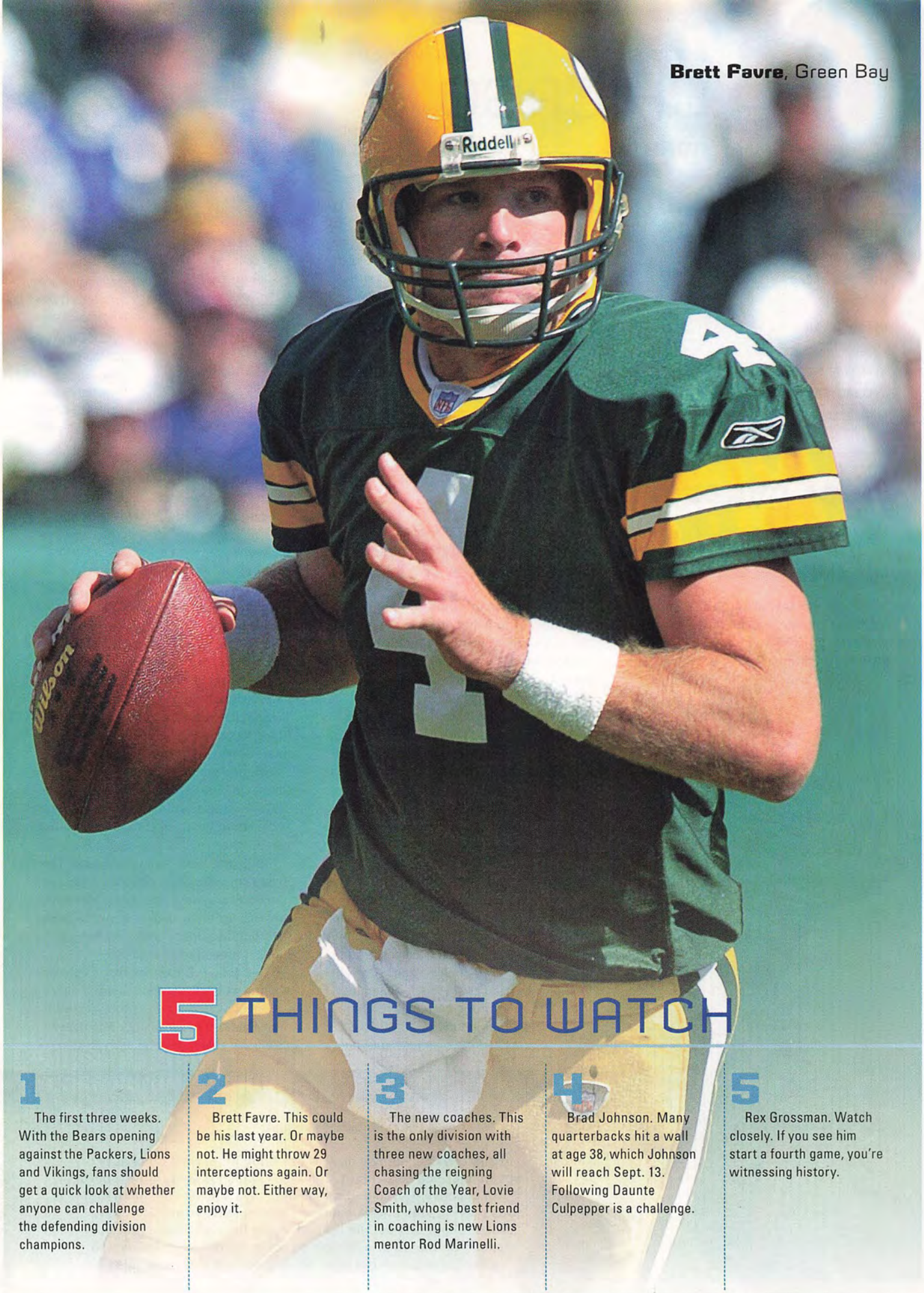
The rebuilding is starting on defense, which is all right with Favre, who remembers how much the late Reggie White meant to the franchise. The addition of free-agent cornerback Charles Woodson and the first-round selection of Ohio State linebacker A.J. Hawk are good signs. Besides, Woodson has been known to play some receiver, too.

But unless McCarthy unearths some pleasant surprises on the offensive and defensive lines, the Packers could be further away than Favre hopes.

Marinelli is the third coach Matt Millen has hired, which is two more than most general managers are allowed. If discipline is indeed what the young Lions need most, they will get it.

Marinelli's hiring of Mike Martz, the former Rams coach, to direct his offense was inspired because nobody produces instant offense like Martz, who has a well-deserved reputation for molding quarterbacks. Jon Kitna and Josh McCown should benefit quickly and so will the Lions.

Like his counterparts, Marinelli drafted for defense first, passing up highly touted quarterbacks Matt Leinart and Jay Cutler in an effort to assemble the kind of defense he helped develop in Tampa.




**Brett Favre**, Green Bay

CHRIS BERNACCHI / SPORTPICS

# 5 THINGS TO WATCH

**1** The first three weeks. With the Bears opening against the Packers, Lions and Vikings, fans should get a quick look at whether anyone can challenge the defending division champions.

**2** Brett Favre. This could be his last year. Or maybe not. He might throw 29 interceptions again. Or maybe not. Either way, enjoy it.

**3** The new coaches. This is the only division with three new coaches, all chasing the reigning Coach of the Year, Lovie Smith, whose best friend in coaching is new Lions mentor Rod Marinelli.

**4** Brad Johnson. Many quarterbacks hit a wall at age 38, which Johnson will reach Sept. 13. Following Daunte Culpepper is a challenge.

**5** Rex Grossman. Watch closely. If you see him start a fourth game, you're witnessing history.

2005 RECORD: 11-5 | www.chicagobears.com

# CHICAGO BEARS

NFC NORTH #1

SOLDIER FIELD
CAPACITY:61,500 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 847-615-2327

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 2 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 4 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| LINEBACKERS | 4 |
| SECONDARY | 3 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 3 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Rex Grossman | LE | Adewale Ogunleye | P | Brad Maynard |
| FB | Bryan Johnson | LT | Tommie Harris | PR | Devin Hester |
| RB | Thomas Jones | RT | Ian Scott | K | Robbie Gould |
| LT | John Tait | RE | Alex Brown | KR | Danieal Manning |
| LG | Ruben Brown | LLB | Hunter Hillenmeyer | | |
| C | Olin Kreutz | MLB | Brian Urlacher | | |
| RG | Terrence Metcalf | RLB | Lance Briggs | | |
| RT | Fred Miller | LCB | Charles Tillman | | |
| TE | Desmond Clark | RCB | Nathan Vasher | | |
| WR | Muhsin Muhammad | SS | Mike Brown | | |
| WR | Mark Bradley | FS | Chris Harris | | |

## ON THE RISE

**TOMMIE HARRIS**
defensive tackle
Very disruptive inside, he made the Pro Bowl in his second season.

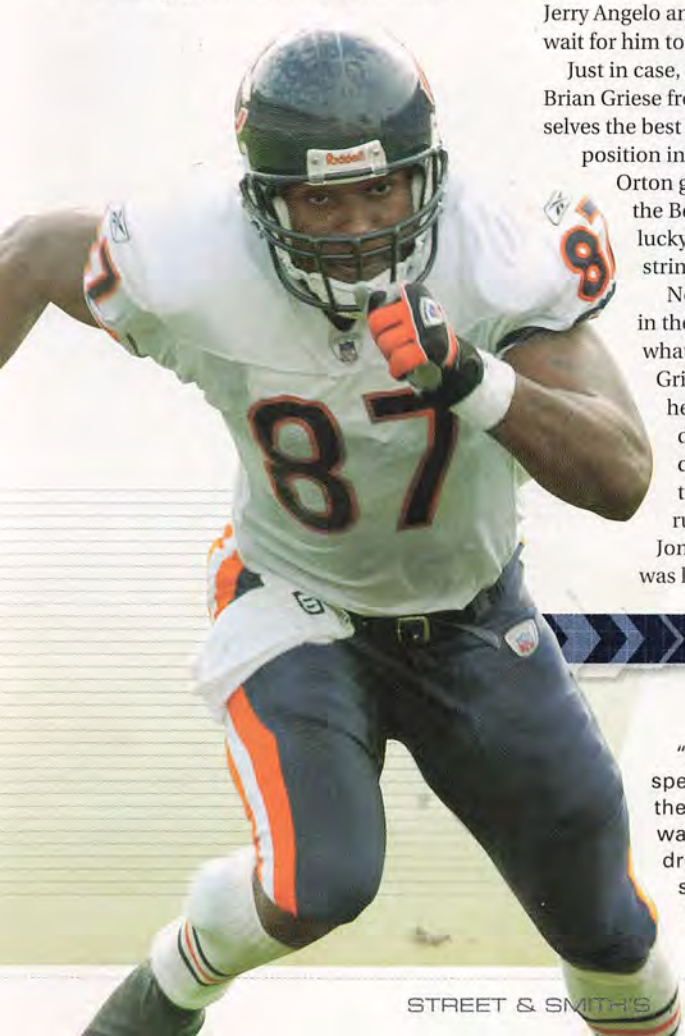
## FADING FAST

**RUBEN BROWN**
offensive guard
The former Pro Bowl regular hasn't started 16 games since 2002.

# Bear necessities

Injury-free seasons from Grossman and Benson in the backfield and even more turnovers from the defense are what Lovie must have in Chicago.

The 11-5 Bears won the NFC North without much argument and return every starter, plus a few prospects who were injured, including quarterback Rex Grossman.



It was Grossman's third straight season of injury, putting him on an endangered list the Bears don't like to ponder. Convinced that he is their future, General Manager Jerry Angelo and Coach Lovie Smith can't wait for him to stay healthy.

Just in case, the Bears signed veteran Brian Griese from Tampa Bay, giving themselves the best depth they have had at the position in years. Last year, rookie Kyle Orton guided them to 10 wins, but the Bears considered themselves lucky. Orton now moves to third string for more development.

Not many teams can stand pat in the free-agent era, even if that's what they want to do. Except for Griese, Chicago stayed clear of heavy offseason activity. But it does expect last year's No. 1 draft choice, Cedric Benson, to carry a much bigger load at running back, where Thomas Jones gained 1,335 yards as he was looking over his shoulder.

Benson was the last first-round draft choice to sign and was also slowed by a knee injury that limited him to 67 carries. He is expected to supplant Jones as the workhorse on a team that relies on running and defense. If they can keep both running backs happy, they could have as formidable a one-two punch as there is in the league.

It was the defense that carried the Bears last year, as they ranked No. 1 for most of the season until the end, when Smith had the luxury of resting regulars and Tampa Bay passed them for the top spot. But it was also the defense that let the Bears down, first against Pittsburgh in December when the Steelers exposed them with 190 yards rushing, then in the playoffs when Carolina unleashed receiver Steve Smith for 12 catches, 218 yards and two touchdowns.

Smith and Defensive Coordinator Ron Rivera consider those two games aberrations. Nevertheless, the Bears left room to prove themselves all over again and spent their first five draft choices on defense for the first time in team history.

Their schedule is easier than last year's, starting with a tour of the division against Green Bay, Detroit and Minnesota, all of which have new coaches. The Bears should be able to take an early lead based

## THE BOOK ON ... MUHSIN MUHAMMAD

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Big, physical, knows how to use body more than quickness or speed to create separation. Can block, which is very important to them because they like to run. Didn't have a great year at all, but was playing with a rookie quarterback in Kyle Orton. Too many drops. Might be past the time he could flourish, even without speed on the other side, like he did in Carolina two years ago after Steve Smith got hurt. Should benefit if Mark Bradley comes on."

NFL HELMET COURTESY SCOREHERE.COM. AVAILABLE FOR ORDER AT WWW.SCOREHERE.COM OR CALL: 800-784-2990.

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; CHRIS BERNACCHI / SPORTPICS

**FACT**

Chicago held six teams without a touchdown and eight teams below 10 points in 2005.

**STAT**

The Bears defense allowed 61 points at home during the regular season, the fewest points allowed by an NFL team in a single season since the league adopted the 16-game schedule in 1978.

**LOOK IT UP**

Kyle Orton started 15 games in 2005 and became the first Bears quarterback to start more than 13 games in a season since 1995. With 10 wins, he has more victories than any other first-year NFL quarterback drafted in the fourth round or later since the draft started in 1967.

## 5-YEAR WINS

## BEARS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **GEORGE HALAS** (40 YEARS)
   **Record with Bears:** 324-152-32
2. **MIKE DITKA** (11 YEARS)
   **Record with Bears:** 112-68
3. **HUNK ANDERSON/ LUKE JOHNSON** (4 YEARS)
   **Record with Bears:** 22-12

## THE COUNT

**3**
Touchdown passes of 10 or more yards, fewest in the NFL.

**8**
Sacks (all by the front four) against Carolina in Week 11, the first eight-sack game by the Bears since Sept. 8, 1991, against Tampa Bay.

**108**
Yards returned for a TD by Nathan Vasher off a missed field goal versus the 49ers in Week 10, the longest play in NFL history.

on experience alone. If Grossman can get through all three games, it will be a victory in itself. He has never started more than three games in a season.

Such confidence in such an unproven quarterback is rare and a bit risky, but Grossman did lead them to 21 points in their playoff loss to Carolina. It was the most points scored by any playoff loser. It was also more than the 16 points the Bears averaged during the regular season. The Bears thought they were good enough on defense to make 21 points stand up against anybody.

Grossman will again have veteran receiver Muhsin Muhammad as his main target. Muhammad caught only 64 passes (four for touchdowns), down considerably from his 93 catches and 16 touchdowns for Carolina in 2004. But Muhammad was operating with the rookie, Orton, and without any proven help opposite him.

Muhammad should benefit from the presence of second-year receiver Mark Bradley, who showed promise as a rookie until felled by a knee injury. Along with Benson, Bradley is a mainstay in what the Bears call their "redshirt-freshman" class. They are especially enamored of speedy Airese Currie, a fifth-round pick last year out of Clemson who never got to play or even practice much because of injury.

Bernard Berrian and Justin Gage have experience as backup receivers and Rashied Davis moved from cornerback to receiver. Desmond Clark is an underutilized tight end who is backed up by John Gilmore and Gabe Reid.

Bryan Johnson is the fullback and Adrian Peterson contributed 391 yards on an impressive 5.1-yard average as a backup running back.

The offensive line is full of veterans, from tackles John Tait and Fred Miller to guards Ruben Brown and Terrence Metcalf to

## NFL DRAFT 2006 DRAFT REPORT

After trading down with Buffalo, the Bears had to wait until the 42nd pick to make their first selection, **Danieal Manning**, who can play cornerback or safety but will need to make the step up in competition from Division II Abilene Christian. **Devin Hester** is a tremendous athlete who excels at returning kicks, but will need to find his place at wide receiver or cornerback. **Dusty Dvoracek** has struggled some off the field, but gives good effort and is competitive on game day. **Jamar Williams** can play any of the linebacker positions. **Mark Anderson** impressed in the athletic drills at the NFL Combine, but surprisingly slid all the way to the fifth round. Athletic **J.D. Runnels** will push for the backup job at fullback. **Tyler Reed** will need to spend his rookie season on the practice squad. There was no help added at tight end, the Bears' primary need position on offense.

GRADE: **C+**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 10 | Manning, Danieal | S | 5-11 | 201 | Abilene Christian |
| 2 | 25 | Hester, Devin | WR | 5-11 | 189 | Miami (FL) |
| 3 | 9 | Dvoracek, Dusty | DT | 6-3 | 305 | Oklahoma |
| 4 | 23 | Williams, Jamar | LB | 6-0 | 250 | Arizona State |
| 5 | 26 | Anderson, Mark | DE | 6-4 | 258 | Alabama |
| 6 | 26 | Runnels, J.D. | RB | 5-11 | 237 | Oklahoma |
| 6 | 31 | Reed, Tyler | G | 6-3 | 307 | Penn State |

## HE SAID IT:

**I don't think any player worth his salt is content to be a backup. Especially somebody that's been a starter before. I'm not going to resign myself to anything.**

*—free-agent signee Brian Griese on winning the starting QB job with the Bears*

## 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 1 | @ Green Bay | |
| SEPT. 10 | 4:15 | SCORE |
| WEEK 2 | vs. Detroit | |
| SEPT. 17 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| WEEK 3 | @ Minnesota | |
| SEPT. 24 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| WEEK 4 | vs. Seattle | |
| OCT. 1 | 8:15 | SCORE |
| ★ MUST-SEE GAME ★ | | |
| *This first of three nighttime TV games will measure whether the Bears are ready for prime time against the defending NFC champions.* | | |
| WEEK 5 | vs. Buffalo | |
| OCT. 8 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| WEEK 6 | @ Arizona | |
| OCT. 16 | 8:30 | SCORE |
| WEEK 7 | *OPEN DATE* | |
| WEEK 8 | vs. San Francisco | |
| OCT. 29 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| WEEK 9 | vs. Miami | |
| NOV. 5 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| WEEK 10 | @ New York Giants | |
| NOV. 12 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| WEEK 11 | @ New York Jets | |
| NOV. 19 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| WEEK 12 | @ New England | |
| NOV. 26 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| WEEK 13 | vs. Minnesota | |
| DEC. 3 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| WEEK 14 | @ St. Louis | |
| DEC. 11 | 8:30 | SCORE |
| WEEK 15 | vs. Tampa Bay | |
| DEC. 17 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| WEEK 16 | @ Detroit | |
| DEC. 24 | 1:00 | SCORE |
| WEEK 17 | vs. Green Bay | |
| DEC. 31 | 1:00 | SCORE |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | L | 7-9 | at Washington |
| 09/18 | W | 38-6 | Detroit |
| 09/25 | L | 7-24 | Cincinnati |
| 10/09 | L | 10-20 | at Cleveland |
| 10/16 | W | 28-3 | Minnesota |
| 10/23 | W | 10-6 | Baltimore |
| 10/30 | W | 19-13 | at Detroit |
| 11/06 | W | 20-17 | at New Orleans |
| 11/13 | W | 17-9 | San Francisco |
| 11/20 | W | 13-3 | Carolina |
| 11/27 | W | 13-10 | at Tampa Bay |
| 12/04 | W | 19-7 | Green Bay |
| 12/11 | L | 9-21 | at Pittsburgh |
| 12/18 | W | 16-3 | Atlanta |
| 12/25 | W | 24-17 | at Green Bay |
| 01/01 | L | 10-34 | at Minnesota |

WON **11**, LOST **5**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jones | 314 | 1335 | 4.3 | 42 | 9 |
| Peterson | 76 | 391 | 5.1 | 36 | 2 |
| Benson | 67 | 272 | 4.1 | 36 | 0 |
| Orton | 24 | 44 | 1.8 | 15 | 0 |
| Berrian | 2 | 31 | 15.5 | 37 | 0 |
| McKie | 3 | 22 | 7.3 | 13 | 0 |
| B. Johnson | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| Blake | 1 | -1 | -1.0 | -1 | 0 |
| **Bears** | **488** | **2099** | **4.3** | **42** | **11** |
| **Opponents** | **443** | **1637** | **3.7** | **61t** | **9** |

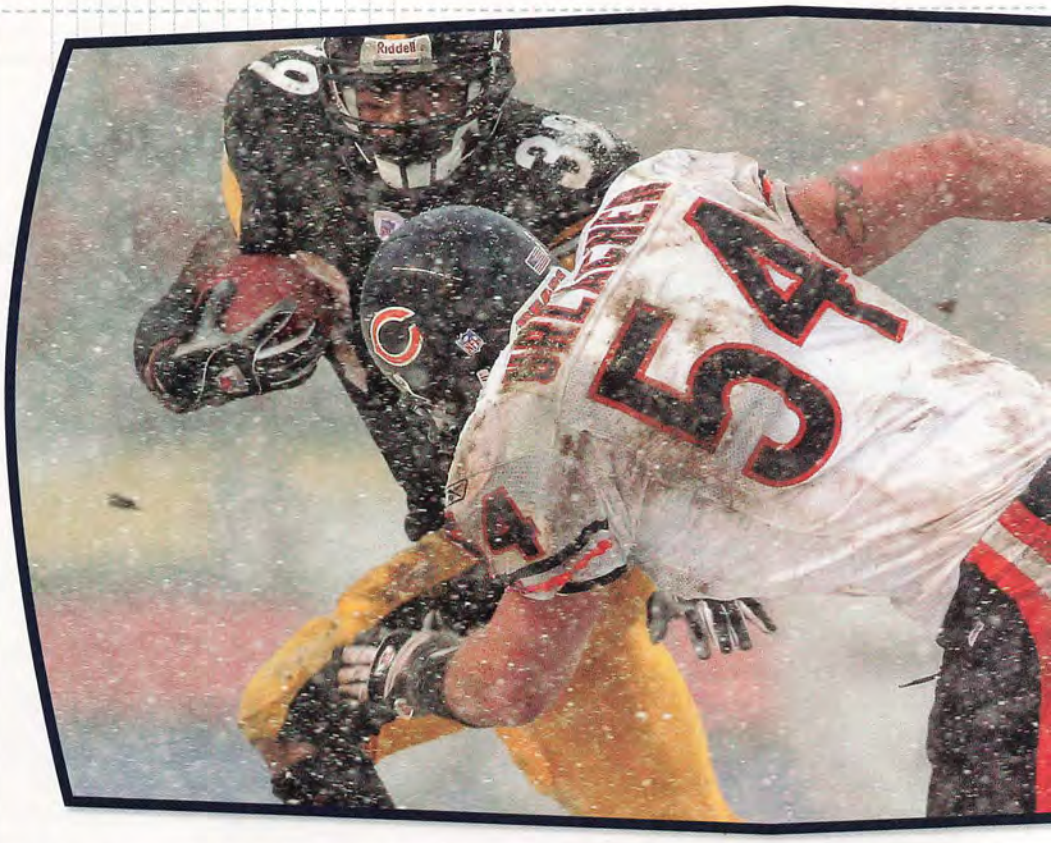
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Muhammad | 64 | 750 | 11.7 | 33 | 4 |
| Gage | 31 | 346 | 11.2 | 25 | 2 |
| Jones | 26 | 143 | 5.5 | 41 | 0 |
| Clark | 24 | 229 | 9.5 | 31 | 2 |
| Bradley | 18 | 230 | 12.8 | 54 | 0 |
| Berrian | 13 | 246 | 18.9 | 54 | 0 |
| M. Edwards | 10 | 66 | 6.6 | 13 | 2 |
| Wade | 10 | 80 | 8.0 | 17 | 0 |
| Peterson | 7 | 48 | 6.9 | 18 | 0 |
| B. Johnson | 5 | 15 | 3.0 | 7 | 0 |
| McKie | 4 | 15 | 3.8 | 11 | 0 |
| Reid | 3 | 20 | 6.7 | 10 | 0 |
| Berlin | 2 | 9 | 4.5 | 9 | 0 |
| Benson | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| Gilmore | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1t | 1 |
| **Bears** | **219** | **2201** | **10.1** | **54** | **11** |
| **Opponents** | **313** | **3147** | **10.1** | **56** | **10** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orton | 368 | 190 | 1869 | 9 | 13 |
| Grossman | 39 | 20 | 259 | 1 | 2 |
| Blake | 9 | 8 | 55 | 1 | 0 |
| Maynard | 2 | 1 | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| **Bears** | **418** | **219** | **2201** | **11** | **15** |
| **Opponents** | **550** | **313** | **3147** | **10** | **24** |

**SACKS**

Ogunleye 10, A. Brown 6, Urlacher 6, T. Johnson 5, T. Harris 3, Briggs 2, Boone 1.5, Haynes 1.5, Azumah 1, M. Brown 1, C. Harris 1, Hillenmeyer 1, Idonije 1, Tillman 1

**Bears 41, Opponents 31**



Pro Bowl center Olin Kreutz. Backups Roberto Garza, John St. Clair, Lennie Friedman, Qasim Mitchell and Steve Edwards all have started in the NFL, giving the Bears uncommon depth here.

It took a season of adjustment for Smith to incorporate his style of defense. In the third season for Smith and Rivera, the Bears are expecting even better production. They tied for the NFC lead in interceptions with 24, but Smith insists his team left turnovers on the field.

The front four of ends Adewale Ogunleye and Alex Brown and tackles Tommie Harris and Ian Scott are capably backed up by ends Michael Haynes and Israel Idonije and tackles Tank Johnson and Alfonso Boone. Harris was a Pro Bowler in his second season and Ogunleye and Brown combined for 16 sacks. Johnson is coming off a quadriceps injury, but both Haynes and Idonije can play inside or outside. Two rookies in the mix are third-round tackle Dusty Dvoracek and fifth-round pass rusher Mark Anderson.

Brian Urlacher and Lance Briggs lead the linebacking corps and finished one-two, respectively, in tackles (171 and 170). Both made the Pro Bowl. Hunter Hillenmeyer is the other starter, but Urlacher and Briggs are on the field for every down. Urlacher also had six sacks but didn't get an interception until his spectacular leaping grab in the playoff loss to Carolina. Smith expects more turnovers this season. Fourth-round pick Jamar Williams joins Joe Odom, Jeremy Cain, Leon Joe, Rod Wilson and special-teams ace Brendon Ayanbadejo as backups.

The Bears suffer whenever strong safety Mike Brown is out of the lineup. He has missed 18 starts the last two seasons, and had to leave the Carolina loss early with a calf injury the Bears claim is unrelated to a

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Bears)*

"Pretty solid team in a bad division, but I don't know if they're as good as they think they are. Quarterback is still a big question. They're counting on [Rex] Grossman and he just can't stay healthy. [Brian] Griese is a 60-percent passer and 50-percent winner, but he's better than what they've had. They're counting on some young receivers to come through because they didn't score much and think they can rely on the defense. The defense is active but didn't play as well as it should have down the stretch. Still, they should win the division going away. I just don't know how far they can go in the playoffs."

(L TO R): MATTHEW EMMONS / US PRESSWIRE; COURTESY NFL (2)

previous Achilles injury. He is the vocal leader of the secondary and plays the same role that John Lynch made famous in Tampa Bay and Adam Archuleta performed for Smith in St. Louis.

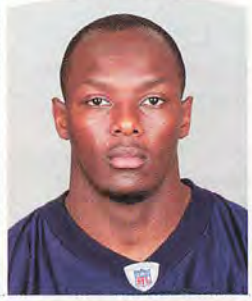
The Bears made a bid for free agent Archuleta, who took more money from Washington. It indicates a need for depth at safety. Second-year man Chris Harris won the job at free safety as a rookie. The Bears dealt Mike Green to Seattle, leaving Todd Johnson as the only veteran backup, so second-round pick Danieal Manning will get a look at safety.

At cornerback, Nathan Vasher made the Pro Bowl based on more than his record 108-yard return of a missed field goal against San Francisco. He had eight interceptions playing opposite Charles Tillman. When nickel back Jerry Azumah retired, the Bears added two Carolina backups, Ricky Manning Jr. and Dante Wesley, hoping their experience in practice against Steve Smith will help the Bears. Another second-rounder, Devin Hester, will also play corner. Robbie Gould was a pleasant surprise as a rookie placekicker. He and punter Brad Maynard do a good job in the Soldier Field wind. Danieal Manning and Hester will help immediately on returns.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Brian Griese**, QB (TB)
- **Dante Wesley**, CB (CAR)
- **Ricky Manning Jr.**, DB (CAR)
- **Tony Hollings**, RB (HOU)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES



- **Mike Green**, DB (trade, SEA)
- **Jerry Azumah**, DB (retired)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 256.3 | 29 |
| Rushing | 131.2 | 8 |
| Passing | 125.1 | 31 |
| Scoring | 260 | 26t |
| Punt Returns | 9.1 | 9t |
| Kick Returns | 19.9 | 28t |
| Red Zone TD % | 46.5 | 21 |
| Total Defense | 281.8 | 2 |
| Against Rush | 102.3 | 11 |
| Against Pass | 179.5 | 5 |
| Points Allowed | 202 | 1 |
| Interceptions | 24 | 2t |
| Sacks | 41 | 8t |
| Turnover Diff. | +6 | 11 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 233 | 99 | 111 | 23 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 43 | 187 | 20 | 16 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | 11 | 2 | 4 |

## BEARS ROSTER

**Lovie Smith, head coach**; **Ron Rivera**, def. coord.; **Ron Turner**, off. coord.; **Dave Toub**, special teams coord.; **Bob Babich**, asst. head coach/linebackers; **Rob Boras**, tight ends; **Darryl Drake**, wide receivers; **Harold Goodwin**, asst. off. line; **Harry Hiestand**, off. line; **Don Johnson**, def. line; **Lloyd Lee**, def. asst.; **Kevin O'Dea**, asst. special teams; **Tim Spencer**, running backs; **Steven Wilks**, def. backs; **Wade Wilson**, quarterbacks

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | Griese, Brian | QB | 6-3 | 214 | 03/18/1975 | 8 | Michigan |
| 8 | Grossman, Rex | QB | 6-1 | 218 | 08/23/1980 | 3 | Florida |
| 18 | Orton, Kyle | QB | 6-4 | 223 | 11/14/1982 | 1 | Purdue |
| | Symons, B.J. | QB | 6-0 | 210 | 11/19/1980 | 0 | Texas Tech |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 74 | Brown, Ruben | G | 6-3 | 300 | 02/13/1972 | 11 | Pittsburgh |
| 79 | Edwards, Steve | T | 6-5 | 330 | 02/20/1979 | 4 | UCF |
| 62 | Friedman, Lennie | G | 6-3 | 295 | 10/13/1976 | 6 | Duke |
| 63 | Garza, Roberto | G | 6-2 | 300 | 03/26/1979 | 5 | Tx. A&M-Kingsville |
| 57 | Kreutz, Olin | C | 6-2 | 292 | 06/09/1977 | 8 | Washington |
| 65 | Mannelly, Patrick | T | 6-5 | 265 | 04/18/1975 | 8 | Duke |
| 60 | Metcalf, Terrence | G | 6-3 | 318 | 01/28/1978 | 4 | Mississippi |
| 69 | Miller, Fred | T | 6-7 | 320 | 02/06/1973 | 10 | Baylor |
| 72 | Mitchell, Qasim | T | 6-6 | 355 | 12/03/1979 | 3 | N. Carolina A&T |
| 68 | Oakley, Anthony | T | 6-4 | 295 | 08/16/1981 | 0 | Western Kentucky |
| 78 | St. Clair, John | T | 6-6 | 318 | 07/31/1977 | 4 | Virginia |
| 76 | Tait, John | T | 6-6 | 315 | 01/26/1975 | 7 | Brigham Young |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 32 | Benson, Cedric | RB | 5-11 | 220 | 12/28/1982 | 1 | Texas |
| 47 | Johnson, Bryan | RB | 6-1 | 242 | 01/18/1978 | 6 | Boise State |
| 20 | Jones, Thomas | RB | 5-10 | 220 | 08/19/1978 | 6 | Virginia |
| 37 | McKie, Jason | RB | 5-11 | 240 | 05/22/1980 | 4 | Temple |
| 29 | Peterson, Adrian | RB | 5-10 | 210 | 07/01/1979 | 4 | Georgia Southern |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| | Amos, Willie | WR | 6-0 | 190 | 07/28/1982 | 0 | Nebraska |
| 80 | Berrian, Bernard | WR | 6-1 | 185 | 12/27/1980 | 2 | Fresno State |
| 16 | Bradley, Mark | WR | 6-1 | 200 | 01/29/1982 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| | Bragg, Craig | WR | 6-1 | 195 | 03/15/1982 | 0 | UCLA |
| 88 | Clark, Desmond | TE | 6-3 | 254 | 04/20/1977 | 7 | Wake Forest |
| 17 | Currie, Airese | WR | 5-10 | 186 | 11/16/1982 | 0 | Clemson |
| 12 | Gage, Justin | WR | 6-4 | 212 | 01/25/1981 | 3 | Missouri |
| 85 | Gilmore, John | TE | 6-3 | 260 | 09/21/1979 | 4 | Penn State |
| 19 | Harrell, Reggie | WR | 6-3 | 215 | 11/28/1981 | 0 | TCU |
| 87 | Muhammad, Muhsin | WR | 6-2 | 217 | 05/05/1973 | 10 | Michigan State |
| 82 | Reid, Gabe | TE | 6-3 | 253 | 05/28/1977 | 2 | Brigham Young |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 70 | Boone, Alfonso | DT | 6-4 | 318 | 01/11/1976 | 5 | Mt. San Antonio JC |
| 96 | Brown, Alex | DE | 6-3 | 262 | 06/04/1979 | 4 | Florida |
| 65 | Green, Jamaal | DE | 6-2 | 272 | 06/05/1980 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| 91 | Harris, Tommie | DT | 6-3 | 300 | 04/29/1983 | 2 | Oklahoma |
| 97 | Haynes, Michael | DE | 6-3 | 274 | 09/13/1980 | 3 | Penn State |
| 71 | Idonije, Israel | DT | 6-6 | 275 | 11/17/1980 | 2 | Manitoba |
| 99 | Johnson, Tank | DT | 6-3 | 300 | 12/07/1981 | 2 | Washington |
| 93 | Ogunleye, Adewale | DE | 6-4 | 260 | 08/09/1977 | 5 | Indiana |
| 95 | Scott, Ian | DT | 6-3 | 302 | 11/08/1981 | 3 | Florida |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 30 | Brown, Mike | S | 5-10 | 207 | 02/13/1978 | 6 | Nebraska |
| 81 | Davis, Rashied | CB | 5-10 | 180 | 07/24/1979 | 1 | San Jose State |
| 46 | Harris, Chris | S | 6-0 | 205 | 08/06/1982 | 1 | Louisiana-Monroe |
| 26 | Holly, Daven | CB | 5-10 | 192 | 08/08/1982 | 1 | Cincinnati |
| 35 | Johnson, Todd | S | 6-1 | 200 | 12/18/1978 | 2 | Florida |
| 24 | Manning Jr., Ricky | CB | 5-8 | 185 | 11/18/1980 | 3 | UCLA |
| 36 | McGowan, Brandon | S | 5-11 | 200 | 09/16/1983 | 1 | Maine |
| 27 | Thompson, Chris | CB | 6-0 | 187 | 05/19/1982 | 1 | Nicholls State |
| 33 | Tillman, Charles | CB | 6-1 | 196 | 02/23/1981 | 3 | Louisiana-Lafayette |
| 31 | Vasher, Nathan | CB | 5-10 | 180 | 11/17/1981 | 2 | Texas |
| 21 | Wesley, Dante | CB | 6-0 | 211 | 04/05/1979 | 4 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff |
| 24 | Worrell, Cameron | S | 5-11 | 199 | 12/14/1979 | 2 | Fresno State |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 94 | Ayanbadejo, Brendon | LB | 6-1 | 228 | 09/06/1976 | 3 | UCLA |
| 55 | Briggs, Lance | LB | 6-1 | 238 | 11/12/1980 | 3 | Arizona |
| 58 | Cain, Jeremy | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 12/08/1981 | 2 | Massachusetts |
| 92 | Hillenmeyer, Hunter | LB | 6-4 | 238 | 10/28/1980 | 3 | Vanderbilt |
| 53 | Joe, Leon | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 10/26/1981 | 2 | Maryland |
| 59 | Odom, Joe | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 12/14/1979 | 3 | Purdue |
| | Smith, Justin | LB | 6-0 | 221 | 06/05/1979 | 1 | Indiana |
| 54 | Urlacher, Brian | LB | 6-4 | 258 | 05/25/1978 | 6 | New Mexico |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 9 | Gould, Robbie | K | 6-1 | 181 | 12/06/1982 | 1 | Penn State |
| 4 | Maynard, Brad | P | 6-1 | 186 | 02/09/1974 | 9 | Ball State |

2005 RECORD: 9-7 | www.vikings.com

# MINNESOTA VIKINGS

NFC NORTH #2

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## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 3 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 2 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| LINEBACKERS | 3 |
| SECONDARY | 2 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 3 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Brad Johnson | LE | Kenechi Udeze | P | Chris Kluwe |
| FB | Tony Richardson | LT | Kevin Williams | PR | Mewelde Moore |
| RB | Chester Taylor | RT | Pat Williams | H | Ryan Longwell |
| LT | Bryant McKinnie | RE | Erasmus James | KR | Koren Robinson |
| LG | Steve Hutchinson | LLB | Ben Leber | | |
| C | Matt Birk | MLB | E.J. Henderson | | |
| RG | Artis Hicks | RLB | Chad Greenway | | |
| RT | Marcus Johnson | LCB | Antoine Winfield | | |
| TE | Jim Kleinsasser | RCB | Fred Smoot | | |
| WR | Troy Williamson | SS | Tank Williams | | |
| WR | Koren Robinson | FS | Darren Sharper | | |

**ON THE RISE**

**KOREN ROBINSON**
wide receiver
Resurrected career as a kick returner; now has eyes on being a star WR.

**FADING FAST**

**BRAD JOHNSON**
quarterback
He'll be 38 early this season, the time so many QBs hit the wall.

# Smooth sailing?

## The new captain of 'Love Boat,' Brad Childress, hopes letting Culpepper go overboard will make winning less complicated for the Viking ship.

The complete makeover of the Vikings continues, from owner Zygi Wilf to Coach Brad Childress to quarterback Brad Johnson.

Starting QB Daunte Culpepper followed receiver Randy Moss out the door by a year. Just as free-agent receiver Koren Robinson provided a boost last year after coming over from the Seahawks, the Vikings are counting on ex-Seattle guard Steve Hutchinson, ex-Philadelphia guard Artis Hicks, ex-Baltimore running back Chester Taylor, ex-Kansas City fullback Tony Richardson, ex-San Diego linebacker Ben Leber and ex-Tennessee safety Tank Williams to propel Childress's first team into the playoffs.

The 9-7 Vikings weren't bad last season, as Childress likes to point out.

"There were distractions galore and they were a 9-7 football team," Childress says.

With the fallout from the "Love Boat" scandal and other troubles in the Mike Tice regime behind them, the talented Vikings are hoping to concentrate on football for a change and challenge the Bears in the NFC North.

Childress thought it was a dream job when he arrived from Andy Reid's staff in Philadelphia, where he was offensive coordinator. That was when he thought Culpepper was the equivalent of Donovan McNabb. Instead, Childress decided Culpepper reminded him more of Terrell Owens.

"It just became a deal where I didn't feel like it was the team, I felt like it was 'me,'" Childress says of his dealings with Culpepper. "I went through a big 'me' situation last year with a guy who was all about 'me.'"

That was enough for the Vikings to send Culpepper to Miami for a second-round draft choice and turn to Johnson, who will be 38 two days after the season opener. They could rationalize that Culpepper is still rehabilitating from a serious knee injury that probably will prevent him from opening the season with the Dolphins and that Johnson led the Vikings to a 7-2 finish in 2005.

It was a risky decision, but at least Childress didn't hesitate to make it and allow trouble to fester. The faster the

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## THE BOOK ON ... KOREN ROBINSON

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Talk about a guy who has salvaged his career. He was pretty much on the scrap pile in alcohol rehab when [former Minnesota Coach Mike] Tice took a chance with him. The guy had never returned kicks, but made the Pro Bowl, which shows his talent. If he stays sober, he could reach his potential at receiver. If you remember when he came out in 2001, he was compared to Randy Moss because of his size and athleticism. He dropped too many balls in Seattle, but maybe that was the drinking. They say he's turned his life around and maybe he has."

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; BRYAN YABLONSKY / SPORTSCHROME

## FACT

Minnesota set an NFL record by becoming the first team to score a touchdown by kickoff return, punt return and interception return in the same game in a 24-21 win over the New York Giants in Week 10.

## STAT

Pro Bowler Koren Robinson became the first Viking to lead the NFC in kickoff returns since Darrin Nelson in 1983. Robinson averaged 26.0 yards per return, the fourth-best season in Minnesota history.

## LOOK IT UP

Brad Johnson had a 62.6 completion percentage in 2005, giving him an NFL-record 10 straight seasons with at least a 60-percent completion rate.

## 5-YEAR WINS

## VIKINGS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **BUD GRANT** (18 YEARS)
   **Record with Vikings:** 168-109-5
2. **DENNIS GREEN** (10 YEARS)
   **Record with Vikings:** 101-70
3. **JERRY BURNS** (6 YEARS)
   **Record with Vikings:** 55-46

## THE COUNT

**1.4**
Brad Johnson's NFL-leading interception percentage (four in 294 pass attempts), a Vikings' record.

**32**
Consecutive losses (including playoffs) by the Vikings when scoring fewer than 20 points.

**40**
Darren Sharper's interception total since 2000, most in the NFL.

Vikings start over in a new system, the quicker they will see results.

Johnson obviously isn't the answer for the future. Mike McMahon, who tagged along from Philadelphia, and J.T. O'Sullivan look more like career backups. So Childress moved up in the draft to get Alabama State's Tarvaris Jackson, a big-armed project.

The first thing Childress wants to do is demonstrate that he will run. Reid called most of the plays in Philly, so Childress is off the hook for the Eagles' one-dimensional attack. By adding All-Pro guard Hutchinson, Hicks, Richardson and the young Taylor, the Vikings clearly intend to improve their 27th-ranked rushing offense.

After losing Onterrio Smith to suspension last season, the Vikings couldn't sustain a running game with Michael Bennett, Mewelde Moore and Ciatrick Fason. So Childress signed the Ravens' promising backup, Taylor. Bennett left for New Orleans, so Moore, Fason and Adimchinobe Echemandu will back up. Richardson blocked for Priest Holmes and Larry Johnson in Kansas City, which is recommendation enough.

Tight end Jim Kleinsasser, who operated as more of an H-back, should be able to concentrate as a blocking tight end with the addition of Richardson. Jermaine Wiggins has led the team in receptions for two years and will continue his role as a primary target.

Hutchinson will improve the entire line, providing an attitude that was especially lacking after Pro Bowl center Matt Birk missed the season with a hip injury. The Vikings expect second-year tackle Marcus Johnson to push Mike Rosenthal for a starting job on the right side opposite holdover Bryant McKinnie. Childress traded for Hicks, who will start at right guard even though most of his experience

## NFL DRAFT 2006 DRAFT REPORT

After missing out on one of the top quarterbacks, the Vikings selected **Chad Greenway** to play the Derrick Brooks position in their new Tampa-2 defense. **Cedric Griffin** is a high-caliber athlete who comes from a winning program and shows the versatility to play cornerback or safety. With the pick acquired from Miami for Daunte Culpepper, the Vikings reached some for center/offensive tackle **Ryan Cook**. **Tarvaris Jackson** was added at the end of the second round to be the quarterback of the future. Although a reach at this point, the strong-armed former Alabama State star has tremendous potential and will be groomed to replace Brad Johnson. **Ray Edwards** had issues with the Purdue coaching staff and disappointed as a junior, but has the ability to start as a pro. **Greg Blue** is a hard-hitting safety who struggles in coverage and may need to make the switch to linebacker. Jackson's development will define this draft in three years.

GRADE: **B-**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 17 | Greenway, Chad | LB | 6-3 | 243 | Iowa |
| 2 | 16 | Griffin, Cedric | CB | 6-0 | 198 | Texas |
| 2 | 19 | Cook, Ryan | C | 6-7 | 327 | New Mexico |
| 2 | 32 | Jackson, Tarvaris | QB | 6-2 | 225 | Alabama State |
| 4 | 30 | Edwards, Ray | DE | 6-5 | 279 | Purdue |
| 5 | 16 | Blue, Greg | S | 6-2 | 215 | Georgia |

## HE SAID IT:

**I've been around too many different situations. I just love to play. All you can control is yourself and what happens on the practice field. What happens will happen.**

*—quarterback Brad Johnson on playing for a new coach and system*

## 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 1** @ Washington | SEPT. 11 | 7:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 2** vs. Carolina | SEPT. 17 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 3** vs. Chicago | SEPT. 24 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 4** @ Buffalo | OCT. 1 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 5** vs. Detroit | OCT. 8 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 6** *OPEN DATE* | | |
| **WEEK 7** @ Seattle | OCT. 22 | 4:15 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 8** vs. New England | OCT. 30 | 8:30 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 9** @ San Francisco | NOV. 5 | 4:05 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 10** vs. Green Bay | NOV. 12 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 11** @ Miami | NOV. 19 | 1:00 |
| ★ MUST-SEE GAME ★ | | |
| *Assuming Daunte Culpepper is healthy, the Vikings will be hoping to show they don't miss him.* | | |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 12** vs. Arizona | NOV. 26 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 13** @ Chicago | DEC. 3 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 14** @ Detroit | DEC. 10 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 15** vs. New York Jets | DEC. 17 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 16** @ Green Bay | DEC. 21 | 8:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 17** vs. St. Louis | DEC. 31 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | L | 13-24 | Tampa Bay |
| 09/18 | L | 8-37 | at Cincinnati |
| 09/25 | W | 33-16 | New Orleans |
| 10/02 | L | 10-30 | at Atlanta |
| 10/16 | L | 3-28 | at Chicago |
| 10/23 | W | 23-20 | Green Bay |
| 10/30 | L | 13-38 | at Carolina |
| 11/06 | W | 27-14 | Detroit |
| 11/13 | W | 24-21 | at New York Giants |
| 11/21 | W | 20-17 | at Green Bay |
| 11/27 | W | 24-12 | Cleveland |
| 12/04 | W | 21-16 | at Detroit |
| 12/11 | W | 27-13 | St. Louis |
| 12/18 | L | 3-18 | Pittsburgh |
| 12/25 | L | 23-30 | at Baltimore |
| 01/01 | W | 34-10 | Chicago |

WON 9, LOST 7

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Moore | 155 | 662 | 4.3 | 33 | 1 |
| M. Bennett | 126 | 473 | 3.8 | 61t | 3 |
| Culpepper | 24 | 147 | 6.1 | 18 | 1 |
| Fason | 32 | 62 | 1.9 | 15 | 4 |
| B. Johnson | 18 | 53 | 2.9 | 16 | 0 |
| Williamson | 3 | 28 | 9.3 | 11 | 0 |
| K. Robinson | 4 | 27 | 6.8 | 13t | 1 |
| M. Williams | 13 | 20 | 1.5 | 9 | 0 |
| Taylor | 2 | 3 | 1.5 | 5 | 0 |
| Hill | 2 | -2 | -1.0 | -1 | 0 |
| Burleson | 2 | -6 | -3.0 | -2 | 0 |
| **Vikings** | **381** | **1467** | **3.9** | **61t** | **10** |
| **Opponents** | **462** | **1841** | **4.0** | **71t** | **14** |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wiggins | 69 | 568 | 8.2 | 24 | 1 |
| T. Taylor | 50 | 604 | 12.1 | 31 | 4 |
| Moore | 37 | 339 | 9.2 | 29 | 2 |
| M. Robinson | 31 | 515 | 16.6 | 68 | 5 |
| Burleson | 30 | 328 | 10.9 | 20 | 1 |
| M. Bennett | 27 | 124 | 4.6 | 20 | 2 |
| Williamson | 24 | 372 | 15.5 | 56 | 2 |
| Kleinsasser | 22 | 171 | 7.8 | 15 | 0 |
| K. Robinson | 22 | 347 | 15.8 | 80t | 1 |
| M. Williams | 8 | 52 | 6.5 | 25 | 0 |
| Owens | 2 | 18 | 9.0 | 12 | 0 |
| Angulo | 1 | 11 | 11.0 | 11 | 0 |
| **Vikings** | **323** | **3449** | **10.7** | **80t** | **18** |
| **Opponents** | **319** | **3539** | **11.1** | **70t** | **23** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Johnson | 294 | 184 | 1885 | 12 | 4 |
| Culpepper | 216 | 139 | 1564 | 6 | 12 |
| **Vikings** | **510** | **323** | **3449** | **18** | **16** |
| **Opponents** | **533** | **319** | **3539** | **23** | **24** |

**SACKS**

Johnstone 7.5, James 4, Scott 4, K. Williams 4, Mosley 3, Newman 3, Cowart 2, P. Williams 1.5, Harris 1, Henderson 1, R. Smith 1, Udeze 1, B. Williams 1

**Vikings 34, Opponents 54**

is on the left. Hutchinson supplants Chris Liwienski, who joins Jason Whittle from the Giants and Adam Goldberg in providing above-average depth up front. Second-round rookie center Ryan Cook joins the mix.

Robinson developed into a welcome bonus for the Vikings after failing as a former No. 1 draft choice in Seattle because of admitted alcohol problems. After earning a Pro Bowl trip as a kick returner in a new role, Robinson is expected to make his bid as the team's go-to receiver, starting opposite last year's No. 1 pick, speedy Troy Williamson. Marcus Robinson, Christopher Jones and Travis Taylor are capable backups. The Vikings will try to replace Nate Burleson, who was signed by Seattle in a retaliatory free-agent strike after losing Hutchinson.

Childress hired Mike Tomlin from Tampa Bay as his defensive coordinator to install the same system that Chicago's Lovie Smith and Detroit's Rod Marinelli brought from Tampa—the "Cover-2" zone that emphasizes pressuring the passer. Ironically, its roots were developed in Minnesota, where former coordinator Floyd Peters schooled current Tampa coordinator Monte Kiffin in the system.

The Vikings' front four of ends Kenechi Udeze and Erasmus James and tackles Kevin Williams and Pat Williams has outstanding potential, with third-year men Darrion Scott and Spencer Johnson providing an excellent rotation as occasional starters. C.J. Mosley showed potential as a rookie, while DeQuincy Scott was signed from the Chargers in case Udeze hasn't fully recovered from knee surgery. The Vikings lost leading sacker Lance Johnstone to the Raiders, but they figure a healthy Udeze and second-year man James should more than offset that departure. Kevin Williams, who led the team in quarterback hurries, should be particularly effective in the penetrating, one-gap scheme. Fourth-round draft choice Ray Edwards has potential as an edge rusher.

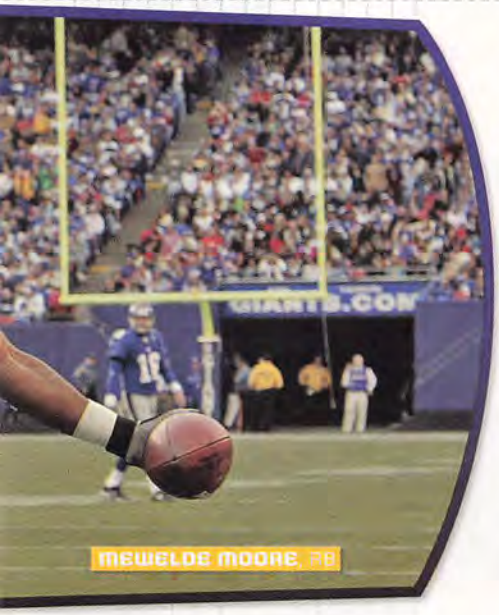
The weakside linebacker is vital in the Tampa-2 defense, so Iowa's Chad Greenway was an easy No. 1 draft choice at a position that will undergo another makeover. Greenway is similar to the Packers' A.J. Hawk and the Lions' Ernie Sims as the entire division tries to emulate the defense the Bears brought from Tampa.

Leber started 52 of 57 games with San Diego before finishing last season on injured reserve.

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Vikings)*

"I think [Brad] Childress can get them going. They have talent and everybody forgets they were 9-7 last year. It's not a great division, so they can make strides, maybe even get to the playoffs. Brad Johnson is probably better than [Daunte] Culpepper would have been for helping Childress make the transition. But Johnson will have trouble staying healthy for a whole season at age 38. It looks like Childress is serious when he says he wants to run more than the Eagles did. The new defense might take some time for those guys, but the parts are pretty much in place. A lot depends on how the safeties, Tank Williams and Darren Sharper, play."



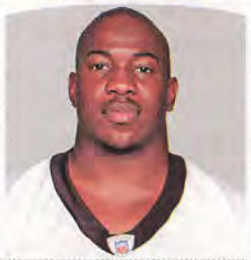

(L TO R): THOMAS WITTE; COURTESY NFL

He will be a significant upgrade on the strongside. The Vikings lost leading tackler and middle linebacker Sam Cowart to Houston, so last year's weakside 'backer, E.J. Henderson, is expected to move back inside, where Napoleon Harris, acquired from Oakland last season in the Moss trade, and Dontarrious Thomas also will compete. Rod Davis is in reserve.

The Vikings lost strong safety Corey Chavous to St. Louis, but are hoping for a full season from cornerback Fred Smoot opposite reliable Antoine Winfield, and are also counting on Tank Williams to provide a more hard-hitting presence at strong safety. If free safety Darren Sharper can duplicate last year's nine-interception season in his ninth year, the Vikings will be more than happy. Dovonte Edwards, Dustin Fox, Will Hunter and Willie Offord are the backups, while second-round pick Cedric Griffin of Texas is expected to vie for nickel-back duties.

Punter Chris Kluwe was a surprising waiver pickup as a rookie who averaged 44.1 yards, but he is recovering from a torn ligament in his kicking knee. The Vikings got even stronger by signing reliable placekicker Ryan Longwell away from the Packers. After excelling in Lambeau Field weather, Longwell should flourish inside the cozy Metrodome. Fason could replace Robinson and Williamson as the primary kickoff-return man if Childress wants to protect his receivers. Moore shows promise as a punt returner.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS



- **Chester Taylor**, RB (BAL)
- **Ben Leber**, LB (SD)
- **Ryan Longwell**, K (GB)
- **Jason Whittle**, OG (NYG)
- **Steve Hutchinson**, OG (SEA)
- **Mike McMahon**, QB (PHI)
- **Tony Richardson**, FB (KC)
- **Tank Williams**, DB (TEN)
- **DeQuincy Scott**, DE (SD)
- **Artis Hicks**, OG (trade, PHI)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Daunte Culpepper**, QB (trade, MIA)
- **Brian Williams**, CB (JAX)
- **Corey Chavous**, DB (STL)
- **Melvin Fowler**, C (BUF)
- **Michael Bennett**, RB (NO)
- **Nate Burleson**, WR (SEA)
- **Sam Cowart**, LB (HOU)
- **Kelly Campbell**, WR (MIA)
- **Toniu Fonoti**, OG (TB)
- **Raonall Smith**, LB (STL)
- **Lance Johnstone**, DE (OAK)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 288.3 | 25 |
| Rushing | 91.7 | 27 |
| Passing | 196.6 | 20 |
| Scoring | 306 | 19 |
| Punt Returns | 8.4 | 14t |
| Kick Returns | 21.8 | 19 |
| Red Zone TD % | 45.1 | 23 |
| Total Defense | 323.3 | 21 |
| Against Rush | 115.1 | 19 |
| Against Pass | 208.2 | 22 |
| Points Allowed | 344 | 19t |
| Interceptions | 24 | 2t |
| Sacks | 34 | 22 |
| Turnover Diff. | +5 | 12 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 285 | 83 | 169 | 33 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | PG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 51 | 212 | 23 | 17 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | 18 | 2 | 3 |

## VIKINGS ROSTER

**Brad Childress, head coach**; **Karl Dunbar**, def. line; **Paul Ferraro**, special teams coord.; **Jim Hueber**, asst. off. line; **Jimmie Johnson**, tight ends; **Pat Morris**, off. line; **Brian Murphy**, asst. special teams; **Fred Pagac**, linebackers; **Kevin Rogers**, quarterbacks; **Mike Tomlin**, def. coord.; **Joe Woods**, secondary; **Darrell Wyatt**, wide receivers

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | Johnson, Brad | QB | 6-5 | 225 | 09/13/1968 | 12 | Florida State |
| 4 | McMahon, Mike | QB | 6-2 | 215 | 02/08/1979 | 5 | Rutgers |
| 7 | O'Sullivan, J.T. | QB | 6-2 | 227 | 08/25/1979 | 1 | UC Davis |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 78 | Birk, Matt | C | 6-4 | 309 | 07/23/1976 | 7 | Harvard |
| 71 | Bubin, Sean | T | 6-7 | 307 | 01/26/1981 | 0 | Illinois |
| 73 | Goldberg, Adam | T | 6-7 | 330 | 08/12/1980 | 2 | Wyoming |
| 64 | Herrera, Anthony | G | 6-2 | 315 | 06/14/1980 | 1 | Tennessee |
| 79 | Hicks, Artis | G | 6-4 | 335 | 11/28/1978 | 3 | Memphis |
| 76 | Hutchinson, Steve | G | 6-5 | 313 | 11/01/1977 | 5 | Michigan |
| 72 | Johnson, Marcus | G | 6-6 | 321 | 12/01/1981 | 1 | Mississippi |
| 67 | Liwienski, Chris | G | 6-5 | 321 | 08/02/1975 | 7 | Indiana |
| 46 | Loeffler, Cullen | C | 6-5 | 241 | 01/27/1981 | 2 | Texas |
| 74 | McKinnie, Bryant | T | 6-8 | 343 | 09/23/1979 | 4 | Miami (FL) |
| 75 | Rosenthal, Mike | T | 6-7 | 315 | 06/10/1977 | 7 | Notre Dame |
| 65 | Whittle, Jason | G | 6-4 | 305 | 03/07/1975 | 8 | Missouri State |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 22 | Echemandu, Adimchinobe | RB | 5-10 | 226 | 11/21/1980 | 2 | California |
| 35 | Fason, Ciatrick | RB | 6-0 | 207 | 12/29/1982 | 1 | Florida |
| 44 | Goodspeed, Joey | RB | 6-1 | 247 | 02/22/1978 | 3 | Notre Dame |
| 30 | Moore, Mewelde | RB | 5-11 | 209 | 07/24/1982 | 2 | Tulane |
| 49 | Richardson, Tony | RB | 6-1 | 238 | 12/17/1971 | 11 | Auburn |
| 29 | Taylor, Chester | RB | 5-11 | 213 | 09/22/1979 | 4 | Toledo |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 86 | Angulo, Richard | TE | 6-7 | 260 | 08/13/1980 | 2 | Western N. Mexico |
| 83 | Dugan, Jeff | TE | 6-4 | 258 | 04/08/1981 | 2 | Maryland |
| 19 | Hoag, Ryan | WR | 6-2 | 200 | 11/23/1979 | 0 | Gustavus Adolphus |
| 15 | Jones, Christopher | WR | 6-3 | 210 | 07/17/1982 | 0 | Jackson State |
| 12 | Kight, Kelvin | WR | 6-0 | 209 | 07/02/1982 | 1 | Florida |
| 40 | Kleinsasser, Jim | TE | 6-3 | 274 | 01/31/1977 | 7 | North Dakota |
| 33 | Owens, Richard | TE | 6-4 | 273 | 11/04/1980 | 2 | Louisville |
| 17 | Redmond, Jimmy | WR | 6-0 | 190 | 08/18/1977 | 2 | McNeese State |
| 18 | Robinson, Koren | WR | 6-1 | 205 | 03/19/1980 | 5 | North Carolina St. |
| 87 | Robinson, Marcus | WR | 6-3 | 215 | 02/27/1975 | 8 | South Carolina |
| 89 | Taylor, Travis | WR | 6-1 | 210 | 03/30/1978 | 6 | Florida |
| 85 | Wiggins, Jermaine | TE | 6-2 | 260 | 01/18/1975 | 6 | Georgia |
| 82 | Williamson, Troy | WR | 6-1 | 203 | 04/30/1983 | 1 | South Carolina |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 99 | James, Erasmus | DE | 6-4 | 266 | 11/04/1982 | 1 | Wisconsin |
| 97 | Johnson, Spencer | DT | 6-3 | 286 | 12/12/1981 | 2 | Auburn |
| 96 | Mosley, C.J. | DT | 6-2 | 314 | 08/06/1983 | 1 | Missouri |
| 98 | Scott, Darrion | DE | 6-3 | 289 | 10/25/1981 | 2 | Ohio State |
| 92 | Scott, DeQuincy | DE | 6-1 | 260 | 03/05/1978 | 4 | Southern Miss |
| 90 | Taylor, Eric | DE | 6-2 | 305 | 12/14/1981 | 1 | Memphis |
| 95 | Udeze, Kenechi | DE | 6-3 | 281 | 03/05/1983 | 2 | USC |
| 93 | Williams, Kevin | DT | 6-5 | 304 | 08/16/1980 | 3 | Oklahoma State |
| 94 | Williams, Pat | DT | 6-3 | 317 | 10/24/1972 | 9 | Texas A&M |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 48 | Dozier, Ukee | CB | 6-1 | 190 | 03/10/1982 | 0 | Minnesota |
| 36 | Edwards, Devonte | CB | 6-0 | 182 | 10/17/1982 | 1 | North Carolina St. |
| 28 | Gallishaw, Laroni | CB | 6-0 | 190 | 04/04/1981 | 1 | Murray State |
| 25 | Hunter, Will | CB | 5-10 | 190 | 03/24/1979 | 1 | Syracuse |
| 24 | Offord, Willie | S | 6-1 | 215 | 12/22/1978 | 4 | South Carolina |
| 42 | Sharper, Darren | S | 6-2 | 210 | 11/03/1975 | 9 | William & Mary |
| 21 | Smoot, Fred | CB | 5-11 | 174 | 04/17/1979 | 5 | Mississippi State |
| 41 | Ward, Marvin | CB | 5-11 | 208 | 08/07/1982 | 0 | Northwestern |
| 29 | Whitaker, Ronyell | CB | 5-9 | 196 | 03/19/1979 | 1 | Virginia Tech |
| 25 | Williams, Tank | S | 6-3 | 223 | 06/30/1980 | 4 | Stanford |
| 26 | Winfield, Antoine | CB | 5-9 | 180 | 06/24/1977 | 7 | Ohio State |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 50 | Davis, Rod | LB | 6-2 | 239 | 04/02/1981 | 2 | Southern Miss |
| 59 | Farwell, Heath | LB | 6-0 | 235 | 12/31/1981 | 1 | San Diego State |
| 58 | Harris, Napoleon | LB | 6-2 | 255 | 02/25/1979 | 4 | Northwestern |
| 56 | Henderson, E.J. | LB | 6-1 | 245 | 08/03/1980 | 3 | Maryland |
| 51 | Leber, Ben | LB | 6-3 | 244 | 12/07/1978 | 4 | Kansas State |
| 54 | Thomas, Dontarrious | LB | 6-2 | 241 | 09/02/1980 | 2 | Auburn |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 5 | Kluwe, Chris | P | 6-4 | 215 | 12/24/1981 | 1 | UCLA |
| 8 | Longwell, Ryan | K | 6-0 | 200 | 08/16/1974 | 9 | California |

2005 RECORD: 4-12 | www.packers.com

# GREEN BAY

## PACKERS

NFC NORTH #3

LAMBEAU FIELD
CAPACITY: 72,601 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 920-569-7501

### POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 2 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 4 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 3 |
| RECEIVERS | 2 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 2 |
| LINEBACKERS | 3 |
| SECONDARY | 3 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 3 |

### PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Brett Favre | LE | Aaron Kampman | P | B.J. Sander |
| FB | William Henderson | LT | Ryan Pickett | PR | Robert Ferguson |
| RB | Ahman Green | RT | Colin Cole | H | Billy Cundiff |
| LT | Chad Clifton | RE | Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila | HR | Najeh Davenport |
| LG | Daryn Colledge | LLB | Brady Poppinga | | |
| C | Scott Wells | MLB | Nick Barnett | | |
| RG | William Whitticker | RLB | A.J. Hawk | | |
| RT | Mark Tauscher | LCB | Charles Woodson | | |
| TE | Bubba Franks | RCB | Al Harris | | |
| WR | Donald Driver | SS | Marquand Manuel | | |
| WR | Robert Ferguson | FS | Nick Collins | | |

**ON THE RISE**

**SAMKON GADO**
running back
Came out of nowhere to rescue the Packers' running game last year.

**FADING FAST**

**BRETT FAVRE**
quarterback
Weak receivers making him even less effective than he should be.

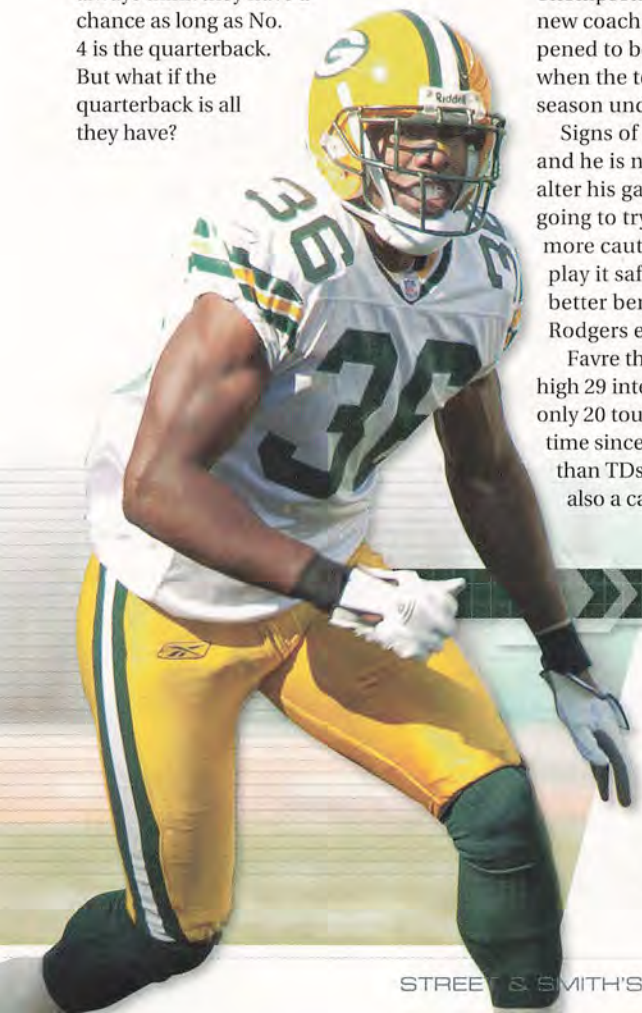
# Favre's fond farewell?

The Packers are hoping a return to health for their running backs will take some pressure off of their (retiring?) legendary quarterback.

Brett Favre is coming back.

He's just not sure to what.

Actually, he never left, so his return shouldn't be all that surprising. Packer fans always think they have a chance as long as No. 4 is the quarterback. But what if the quarterback is all they have?



Favre sounded fair warning before delaying his retirement. There are no guarantees that last year's 4-12 team will be any better. General Manager Ted Thompson is rebuilding, starting with a new coach, Mike McCarthy, who happened to be Favre's position coach in 1999 when the team suffered through an 8-8 season under Ray Rhodes.

Signs of deterioration surround Favre and he is not the kind of quarterback to alter his game and help the cause. He's going to try to win, but not by being more cautious. If the Packers want to play it safe and play not to lose, they better bench Favre and begin the Aaron Rodgers era now.

Favre threw a career-high and league-high 29 interceptions last season versus only 20 touchdown passes. It was the first time since 1999 that he had more picks than TDs. His 607 pass attempts were also a career high. If the Packers are behind, Favre will be throwing. It will be a challenge for McCarthy to try to change Favre's gunslinging ways.

If Favre can hand off in a reliable running game, it will help immensely. When Ahman Green and then Najeh Davenport and then Samkon Gado got hurt last year, the rushing attack slid to 30th in the league. All are back and hopefully healthy. Green is just 29, but has enjoyed only two 16-game seasons in six campaigns with the Packers. Although the Packers lost third-down back Tony Fisher to the Rams, the depth is still good with Davenport and the surprising Gado. Fate couldn't possibly sideline all three at the same time again. With fullback and outlet receiver William Henderson returning for his 12th season, the Packers should again be able to feature a strong running attack.

The receiving and blocking are more problematic. Javon Walker, also coming off a knee injury, was adamant about leaving the Packers because of a contract dispute and ended up in Denver. Terrence Murphy, a promising rookie, suffered a neck injury and was released. Third receiver and punt-return specialist Antonio Chatman signed with Cincinnati. Robert Ferguson,

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## THE BOOK ON ... NICK COLLINS

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"You've got to give [General Manager] Ted Thompson his props on this guy. I didn't even think he was worth a first-day pick, but the Packers take him in the second round out of little Bethune-Cookman and turn him into a 16-game starter at free safety. He wasn't that great a tackler coming out, but he ends up as a darn good one and he hits. He had the size and speed, but was supposed to be a project. Nobody knows the Packers ranked No. 1 in pass defense. If this guy makes the usual improvement between his first and second year, watch out."

HEADSHOT COURTESY NFL; CHRIS BERNACCHI / SPORTPICS

### FACT
While the Packers were 4-12 in 2005, their opponents generated more total offense only four times all season.

### STAT
Brett Favre started all 16 games in 2005, the 13th straight season he hasn't missed a game. His streak of 221 regular-season games (241 including playoffs) is an NFL record among quarterbacks.

### LOOK IT UP
The Packers generated 33 drives of 10 plays or more in 2005, the most in the NFC. However, those drives produced only 98 points, ranking them sixth in points scored off drives of at least 10 plays.

### 5-YEAR WINS

### PACKERS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **VINCE LOMBARDI** (9 YEARS)
   **Record with Packers:** 98-30-4
2. **CURLY LAMBEAU** (29 YEARS)
   **Record with Packers:** 212-106-21
3. **MIKE HOLMGREN** (7 YEARS)
   **Record with Packers:** 84-42

### THE COUNT

**202**
Passes thrown for a first down by Brett Favre, the most by an NFL quarterback last season.

**10**
NFL-record number of times, including 2005, that Green Bay has led the NFL in pass defense.

**30**
NFL-worst interception total by the Packers' offense, 29 of which were thrown by Favre.

like Walker, is coming off a knee injury. Tight end Bubba Franks, an integral part of the offense, started only half the season and finished on injured reserve with neck and back injuries.

That left Favre with wideout Donald Driver, who managed to catch 86 passes for a 14.2-yard average despite all the attention. Although Favre completed passes to 18 different targets, Driver was the only go-to guy left.

With several big-name receivers changing addresses in the offseason, starting with Terrell Owens, the Packers signed Kansas City backup Marc Boerigter, who caught only eight passes in 10 games last year. They drafted wideouts Greg Jennings and Cory Rodgers in the second and fourth rounds, respectively, but it's a lot to ask for rookies to contribute much at that position right away.

So, it's up to veterans like Driver and Ferguson and tight ends Franks, David Martin and Donald Lee to carry the load again.

When center Mike Flanagan followed the fired head coach, Mike Sherman, to the Houston Texans (where Sherman is assistant head coach), it left Favre with a big hole in the middle of his offensive line. Guards Marco Rivera and Mike Wahle left in free agency last season. Stout tackles Chad Clifton and Mark Tauscher remain on the edges, but the Packers remain vulnerable to inside pressure with guards Junius Coston and William Whitticker and center Scott Wells penciled in as starters. Second-round selection Daryn Colledge, a college tackle, could follow Whitticker as a rookie starter at guard. Third-round pick Jason Spitz is also a possibility at guard or center. Adrian Klemm, Chris White and Kevin Barry are backups.

Favre currently owns an unprecedented 221-game starting string, so it's easy to forget how important his protection is and that

## NFL DRAFT 2006 DRAFT REPORT

**A.J. Hawk** could be the safest pick of the first round and is likely a sure starter from the outset. He will make the entire defense better with his play and leadership ability. **Daryn Colledge** is an athletic left tackle who could be moved into the left guard position for the Packers. Wideouts **Greg Jennings** and **Cory Rodgers** were added to replace Javon Walker. **Abdul Hodge** teamed well with Chad Greenway at Iowa and could allow Nick Barnett to move to an outside spot at linebacker. **Jason Spitz** has experience at guard and center and will push for a starting job as a rookie. **Will Blackmon** played out of position at wide receiver as a senior, but should be a reliable backup at cornerback. **Ingle Martin** will carry the clipboard behind Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers. The final four selections will likely end up on the practice squad. Losing Walker hurts, so Jennings will need to make an impact this season.

GRADE: **B-**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | Hawk, A.J. | LB | 6-1 | 247 | Ohio State |
| 2 | 15 | Colledge, Daryn | T | 6-4 | 298 | Boise State |
| 2 | 20 | Jennings, Greg | WR | 5-11 | 196 | Western Michigan |
| 3 | 3 | Hodge, Abdul | LB | 6-0 | 235 | Iowa |
| 3 | 11 | Spitz, Jason | C | 6-3 | 304 | Louisville |
| 4 | 7 | Rodgers, Cory | WR | 6-0 | 187 | TCU |
| 4 | 18 | Blackmon, Will | WR | 6-0 | 199 | Boston College |
| 5 | 15 | Martin IV, Ingle | QB | 6-2 | 219 | Florida |
| 5 | 32 | Moll, Tony | T | 6-4 | 285 | Nevada |
| 6 | 14 | Jolly Jr., Johnny | DT | 6-3 | 318 | Texas A&M |
| 6 | 16 | Culver, Tyrone | S | 6-0 | 195 | Fresno State |
| 7 | 45 | Tollefson, Dave | DE | 6-4 | 263 | NW Missouri State |

### HE SAID IT:

**I don't have to ever worry about anything, because I know when the time comes, I'm going to be that guy that's going to be getting the ball. I would have had worries if he wasn't here. You never know how the system works then.**

*—wide receiver Donald Driver on quarterback Brett Favre's return to the team*

### 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 1** vs. Chicago | SEPT. 10 | 4:15 |
| **WEEK 2** vs. New Orleans | SEPT. 17 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 3** @ Detroit | SEPT. 24 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 4** @ Philadelphia | OCT. 2 | 8:30 |
| **WEEK 5** vs. St. Louis | OCT. 8 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 6** *OPEN DATE* | | |
| **WEEK 7** @ Miami | OCT. 22 | 4:15 |
| **WEEK 8** vs. Arizona | OCT. 29 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 9** @ Buffalo | NOV. 5 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 10** @ Minnesota | NOV. 12 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 11** vs. New England | NOV. 19 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 12** @ Seattle | NOV. 27 | 8:30 |
| **WEEK 13** vs. New York Jets | DEC. 3 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 14** @ San Francisco | DEC. 10 | 4:05 |
| **WEEK 15** vs. Detroit | DEC. 17 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 16** vs. Minnesota | DEC. 21 | 8:00 |
| **WEEK 17** @ Chicago | DEC. 31 | 1:00 |

SCORE

★ **MUST-SEE GAME** ★

*Will this be Brett Favre's final game? Once you start talking about retirement, the speculation never ends.*

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | L | 3-17 | at Detroit |
| 09/18 | L | 24-26 | Cleveland |
| 09/25 | L | 16-17 | Tampa Bay |
| 10/03 | L | 29-32 | at Carolina |
| 10/09 | W | 52-3 | New Orleans |
| 10/23 | L | 20-23 | at Minnesota |
| 10/30 | L | 14-21 | at Cincinnati |
| 11/06 | L | 10-20 | Pittsburgh |
| 11/13 | W | 33-25 | at Atlanta |
| 11/21 | L | 17-20 | Minnesota |
| 11/27 | L | 14-19 | at Philadelphia |
| 12/04 | L | 7-19 | at Chicago |
| 12/11 | W | 16-13 | Detroit |
| 12/19 | L | 3-48 | at Baltimore |
| 12/25 | L | 17-24 | Chicago |
| 01/01 | W | 23-17 | Seattle |

WON **4**, LOST **12**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gado | 143 | 582 | 4.1 | 64t | 6 |
| Green | 77 | 255 | 3.3 | 13 | 0 |
| Fisher | 60 | 173 | 2.9 | 17 | 1 |
| Herron | 45 | 121 | 2.7 | 17 | 2 |
| Davenport | 30 | 105 | 3.5 | 24 | 2 |
| Favre | 18 | 62 | 3.4 | 20 | 0 |
| Chatman | 8 | 34 | 4.3 | 11 | 0 |
| R. Lee | 11 | 16 | 1.5 | 4 | 0 |
| Driver | 2 | 13 | 6.5 | 9 | 0 |
| Rodgers | 2 | 7 | 3.5 | 8 | 0 |
| Henderson | 1 | -5 | -5.0 | -5 | 0 |
| Sander | 1 | -11 | -11.0 | -11 | 0 |
| **Packers** | **398** | **1352** | **3.4** | **64t** | **11** |
| **Opponents** | **504** | **2010** | **4.0** | **43** | **10** |

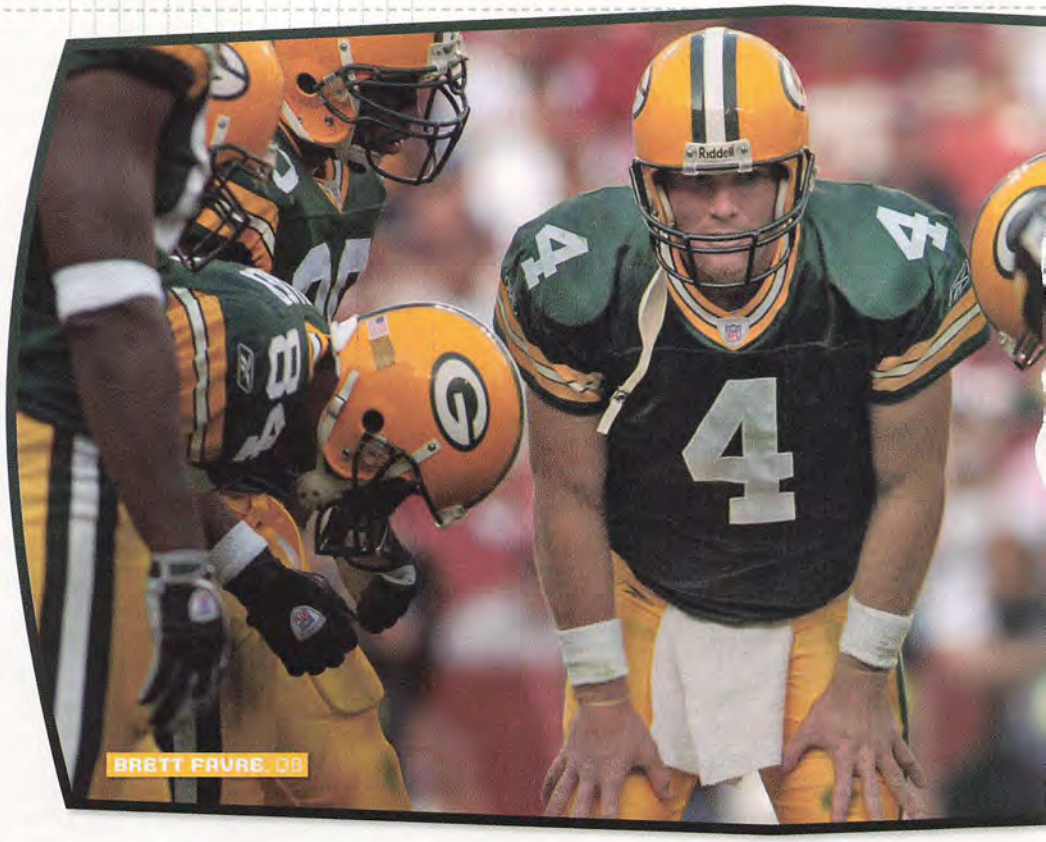
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Driver | 86 | 1221 | 14.2 | 59 | 5 |
| Chatman | 49 | 549 | 11.2 | 25 | 4 |
| Fisher | 48 | 347 | 7.2 | 15 | 1 |
| D. Lee | 33 | 294 | 8.9 | 27 | 2 |
| Henderson | 30 | 264 | 8.8 | 32 | 0 |
| Ferguson | 27 | 366 | 13.6 | 51 | 3 |
| Martin | 27 | 224 | 8.3 | 21t | 3 |
| Franks | 25 | 207 | 8.3 | 24 | 1 |
| Green | 19 | 147 | 7.7 | 20 | 0 |
| Gado | 10 | 77 | 7.7 | 30 | 1 |
| Thurman | 7 | 92 | 13.1 | 33 | 0 |
| Leach | 5 | 19 | 3.8 | 9 | 0 |
| Murphy | 5 | 36 | 7.2 | 12 | 0 |
| Gardner | 4 | 67 | 16.8 | 33 | 0 |
| Walker | 4 | 27 | 6.8 | 9 | 0 |
| Davenport | 2 | 3 | 1.5 | 2 | 0 |
| R. Lee | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| W. Williams | 1 | 19 | 19.0 | 19 | 0 |
| **Packers** | **383** | **3964** | **10.3** | **59** | **20** |
| **Opponents** | **252** | **2876** | **11.4** | **80t** | **22** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Favre | 607 | 372 | 3881 | 20 | 29 |
| Rodgers | 16 | 9 | 65 | 0 | 1 |
| Fisher | 1 | 1 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Sander | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Gado | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Packers** | **626** | **383** | **3964** | **20** | **30** |
| **Opponents** | **430** | **252** | **2876** | **22** | **10** |

**SACKS**

Gbaja-Biamila 8, Kampman 6.5, Harris 3, Jenkins 3, Peterson 3, Cole 2, Poppinga 2, C. Williams 2, Lenon 1.5, Barnett 1, Jackson 1, Montgomery 1

**Packers 35, Opponents 27**



BRETT FAVRE, QB

only second-year man Rodgers is behind him after Craig Nall left for Buffalo. Fifth-round draft choice Ingle Martin from Furman will also watch.

Under Defensive Coordinator Jim Bates, the Packers improved to seventh in the league in total defense. But when Thompson passed up Bates for McCarthy, Bates moved on. McCarthy retained assistant Bob Sanders as coordinator, so much of Bates' system will remain.

Re-signing end Aaron Kampman and adding tackle Ryan Pickett from St. Louis provides a good base for the front four, with pass rusher Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila and Colin Cole also starting. The Packers are hoping for breakthroughs from Donnell Washington, Kenny Peterson, Cullen Jenkins, Corey Williams and Michael Montgomery. They also added Kenderick Allen, a backup for the Giants last season.

Favre lobbied for the addition of a big-name defensive player and tried to convince linebacker LaVar Arrington to come aboard. The Packers missed out on him, but did get cornerback Charles Woodson to fill a dire need, and then landed the best can't-miss defensive prospect in the draft, Ohio State linebacker A.J. Hawk. Favre appreciates shoring up the defense because he's been around long enough to remember how much the late Reggie White meant to the franchise.

Middle linebacker Nick Barnett led the team in tackles by far, but Hawk is expected to make an immediate impact, probably at weakside linebacker opposite second-year prospect Brady Poppinga, who has good pass-rush ability if he's recovered from knee surgery. The Packers picked up Ben Taylor, who started 16 games on the weakside in Cleveland, so Hawk could also play the strongside. They drafted Iowa's Abdul Hodge in the third round to back up Barnett in the middle, but the need is so great Hodge could play outside, too. Holdovers

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Packers)*

"This doesn't look so good. [Brett] Favre has good reason to worry. Look at the middle of their offensive line. Favre better practice his wind sprints. Plus, they lose their best receiver in Javon Walker, although Donald Driver had a heck of a year. If Ahman Green can come back strong, it will make a big difference, but who knows about his health? Mike McCarthy has to coach Favre better than Mike Sherman did. He might be an idol, but he still needs somebody to keep the reins on him like Mike Holmgren did. I thought [A.J.] Hawk was the best defensive player in the draft; more production than Mario Williams. They needed playmakers on defense. If Charles Woodson can stay healthy, he'll help a lot."

(L TO R): RANDY LITZINGER; COURTESY NFL

Roy Manning, Tracy White and Kurt Campbell are in reserve.

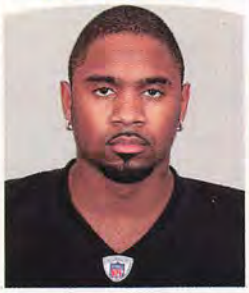
Hawk shows the instincts and has the track record to have the same kind of immediate impact that Brian Urlacher did in Chicago. He was called by some a safer pick than either Reggie Bush or Mario Williams, the top two selections in April's draft.

Strong safety Marquand Manuel was signed from Seattle to team with second-year free safety Nick Collins, who played very well as a rookie. Cornerback Al Harris is solid, and Woodson will replace ineffective former No. 1 pick Ahmad Carroll. Six second-year prospects are reserves in the secondary—Marviel Underwood, Mike Hawkins, Patrick Dendy, Therrian Fontenot, Jerron Wishom and Atari Bigby. Fourth-round rookie corner Will Blackmon, a tremendous athlete who played on both sides of the ball at Boston College, could also help.

Losing reliable placekicker Ryan Longwell to Minnesota and replacing him with Billy Cundiff is a downgrade. The Packers' luck was so bad last year that punter B.J. Sander ended up on injured reserve. Davenport returns kicks and Ferguson handles punts, but the two have been injured, so Blackmon and rookie receivers Jennings and Rodgers will get looks there.

FINAL GRADE: 77 STOCK STEADY REPORT

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS



- **Charles Woodson**, DB (OAK)
- **Marquand Manuel**, DB (SEA)
- **Marc Boerigter**, WR (KC)
- **Billy Cundiff**, K (TB)
- **Ryan Pickett**, DT (STL)
- **Ben Taylor**, LB (CLE)
- **Kenderick Allen**, DT (NYG)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Ryan Longwell**, K (MIN)
- **Craig Nall**, QB (BUF)
- **Antonio Chatman**, WR (CIN)
- **Tony Fisher**, RB (STL)
- **Mike Flanagan**, OL (HOU)
- **Paris Lenon**, LB (DET)
- **Na'il Diggs**, LB (CAR)
- **Javon Walker**, WR (trade, DEN)
- **ReShard Lee**, RB (OAK)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 319.9 | 18 |
| Rushing | 84.5 | 30 |
| Passing | 235.4 | 7 |
| Scoring | 298 | 22 |
| Punt Returns | 8.5 | 11t |
| Kick Returns | 18.9 | 32 |
| Red Zone TD % | 47.8 | 17t |
| Total Defense | 293.1 | 7 |
| Against Rush | 125.6 | 23 |
| Against Pass | 167.5 | 1 |
| Points Allowed | 344 | 19t |
| Interceptions | 10 | 26t |
| Sacks | 35 | 20t |
| Turnover Diff. | -24 | 31t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 318 | 76 | 206 | 36 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | PG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 46 | 195 | 22 | 13 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | 20 | 1 | 2 |

## PACKERS ROSTER

**Mike McCarthy, head coach**; **Jeff Jagodzinski**, off. coord.; **Edgar Bennett**, running backs; **James Campen**, asst. off. line; **Tom Clements**, quarterbacks; **Ben McAdoo**, tight ends; **Joe Philbin**, off. line; **Jimmy Robinson**, wide receivers; **Bob Sanders**, def. coord.; **Carl Hairston**, def. ends; **Winston Moss**, linebackers; **Robert Nunn**, def. tackles; **Kurt Schottenheimer**, secondary; **Lionel Washington**, def. nickel package/cornerbacks; **Mike Stock**, special teams coord.; **Shawn Slocum**, asst. special teams

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17 | Arth, Tom | QB | 6-4 | 220 | 05/11/1981 | 0 | John Carroll |
| 4 | Favre, Brett | QB | 6-2 | 222 | 10/10/1969 | 15 | Southern Miss |
| 12 | Rodgers, Aaron | QB | 6-2 | 223 | 12/02/1983 | 1 | California |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 71 | Barry, Kevin | T | 6-4 | 332 | 07/20/1979 | 4 | Arizona |
| 76 | Clifton, Chad | T | 6-5 | 330 | 06/26/1976 | 6 | Tennessee |
| 62 | Coston, Junius | G | 6-3 | 317 | 11/05/1983 | 0 | N. Carolina A&T |
| 60 | Davis, Rob | C | 6-3 | 284 | 12/10/1968 | 10 | Shippensburg |
| 70 | Klemm, Adrian | G | 6-4 | 318 | 05/21/1977 | 5 | Hawaii |
| 61 | Lucier, Wayne | C | 6-3 | 300 | 12/05/1979 | 2 | Colorado |
| 65 | Tauscher, Mark | T | 6-4 | 315 | 06/17/1977 | 6 | Wisconsin |
| 63 | Wells, Scott | C | 6-2 | 304 | 01/17/1981 | 2 | Tennessee |
| 68 | White, Chris | C | 6-2 | 285 | 02/28/1983 | 1 | Southern Miss |
| 78 | Whitticker, William | G | 6-5 | 338 | 08/02/1982 | 1 | Michigan State |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 44 | Davenport, Najeh | RB | 6-1 | 247 | 02/08/1979 | 4 | Miami (FL) |
| 35 | Gado, Samkon | RB | 5-11 | 210 | 11/13/1982 | 1 | Liberty |
| 30 | Green, Ahman | RB | 6-0 | 218 | 02/16/1977 | 8 | Nebraska |
| 33 | Henderson, William | RB | 6-1 | 252 | 02/19/1971 | 11 | North Carolina |
| 23 | Herron, Noah | RB | 5-11 | 224 | 04/03/1982 | 1 | Northwestern |
| 48 | Leach, Vonta | RB | 6-0 | 250 | 11/06/1981 | 2 | East Carolina |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 83 | Boerigter, Marc | WR | 6-3 | 220 | 05/04/1978 | 3 | Hastings |
| 19 | Butler, Vincent | WR | 6-0 | 185 | 05/09/1981 | 0 | Northwestern Okla. St. |
| 80 | Driver, Donald | WR | 6-0 | 190 | 02/02/1975 | 7 | Alcorn State |
| 89 | Ferguson, Robert | WR | 6-1 | 210 | 12/17/1979 | 5 | Texas A&M |
| 88 | Franks, Bubba | TE | 6-6 | 265 | 01/06/1978 | 6 | Miami (FL) |
| 82 | Gardner, Rod | WR | 6-2 | 213 | 10/26/1977 | 5 | Clemson |
| 84 | Humphrey, Tory | TE | 6-2 | 257 | 01/20/1983 | 1 | Central Michigan |
| 86 | Lee, Donald | TE | 6-3 | 255 | 08/31/1980 | 3 | Mississippi State |
| 10 | Lucas, Chad | WR | 6-1 | 201 | 11/07/1981 | 1 | Alabama State |
| 87 | Martin, David | TE | 6-4 | 265 | 03/13/1979 | 5 | Tennessee |
| 18 | Martin, Ruvell | WR | 6-4 | 217 | 08/10/1982 | 0 | Saginaw Valley |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 97 | Allen, Kenderick | DT | 6-6 | 315 | 09/14/1978 | 3 | LSU |
| 90 | Cole, Colin | DT | 6-2 | 325 | 06/24/1980 | 2 | Iowa |
| 94 | Gbaja-Biamila, Kabeer | DE | 6-4 | 250 | 09/24/1977 | 6 | San Diego State |
| 77 | Jenkins, Cullen | DE | 6-3 | 290 | 01/20/1981 | 2 | Central Michigan |
| 74 | Kampman, Aaron | DE | 6-4 | 278 | 11/30/1979 | 4 | Iowa |
| 69 | McGill, Tim | DT | 6-2 | 330 | 06/24/1979 | 0 | Illinois |
| 96 | Montgomery, Michael | DE | 6-5 | 275 | 08/18/1983 | 1 | Texas A&M |
| 98 | Peterson, Kenny | DE | 6-3 | 285 | 11/21/1978 | 3 | Ohio State |
| 79 | Pickett, Ryan | NT | 6-2 | 310 | 10/08/1979 | 5 | Ohio State |
| 95 | Washington, Donnell | DT | 6-6 | 328 | 02/06/1981 | 0 | Clemson |
| 99 | Williams, Corey | DT | 6-4 | 313 | 08/17/1980 | 2 | Arkansas State |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| | Bigby, Atari | S | 5-11 | 220 | 09/19/1981 | 1 | UCF |
| 28 | Carroll, Ahmad | CB | 5-10 | 190 | 08/04/1983 | 2 | Arkansas |
| 36 | Collins, Nick | S | 5-11 | 200 | 08/16/1983 | 1 | Bethune-Cookman |
| 34 | Dendy, Patrick | CB | 6-0 | 190 | 03/10/1982 | 1 | Rice |
| 39 | Fontenot, Therrian | CB | 5-10 | 187 | 06/28/1981 | 1 | Fresno State |
| 31 | Harris, Al | CB | 6-1 | 185 | 12/07/1974 | 8 | Tx. A&M-Kingsville |
| 37 | Hawkins, Mike | CB | 6-1 | 180 | 07/15/1983 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| 26 | Horton, Jason | CB | 6-0 | 190 | 02/16/1980 | 2 | N. Carolina A&T |
| 22 | Manuel, Marquand | S | 6-0 | 209 | 07/11/1979 | 4 | Florida |
| 20 | Roman, Mark | S | 5-11 | 201 | 03/26/1977 | 6 | LSU |
| 38 | Thornburg, Jeremy | S | 6-0 | 190 | 05/07/1982 | 1 | Northern Arizona |
| 25 | Underwood, Marviel | S | 5-10 | 197 | 02/17/1982 | 1 | San Diego State |
| 41 | Wishom, Jerron | CB | 6-0 | 195 | 03/01/1982 | 1 | Louisiana Tech |
| 21 | Woodson, Charles | CB | 6-1 | 200 | 10/07/1976 | 8 | Michigan |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 56 | Barnett, Nick | LB | 6-2 | 232 | 05/27/1981 | 3 | Oregon State |
| 54 | Manning, Roy | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 12/04/1981 | 1 | Michigan |
| 51 | Poppinga, Brady | LB | 6-3 | 245 | 09/21/1979 | 1 | Brigham Young |
| 58 | Taylor, Ben | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 08/31/1978 | 4 | Virginia Tech |
| 59 | White, Tracy | LB | 6-0 | 230 | 04/14/1981 | 3 | Howard |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 2 | Cundiff, Billy | K | 6-1 | 201 | 03/30/1980 | 4 | Drake |
| 16 | Rayner, Dave | K | 6-2 | 205 | 10/26/1982 | 1 | Michigan State |
| 11 | Sander, B.J. | P | 6-4 | 218 | 07/29/1980 | 1 | Ohio State |

2005 RECORD: 5-11 | www.detroitlions.com

# DETROIT LIONS

NFC NORTH #4

FORD FIELD
CAPACITY: 65,000 | TURF: ARTIFICIAL | TICKETS: 313-262-2003

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 2 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 2 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| LINEBACKERS | 3 |
| SECONDARY | 2 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 1 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Jon Kitna | LE | Cory Redding | P | Nick Harris |
| FB | Cory Schlesinger | LT | Shaun Cody | PR | Eddie Drummond |
| RB | Kevin Jones | RT | Shaun Rogers | H | Jason Hanson |
| LT | Jeff Backus | RE | James Hall | KR | Eddie Drummond |
| LG | Rex Tucker | LLB | Teddy Lehman | | |
| C | Dominic Raiola | MLB | Boss Bailey | | |
| RG | Damien Woody | RLB | Ernie Sims | | |
| RT | Kelly Butler | LCB | Fernando Bryant | | |
| TE | Marcus Pollard | RCB | Dre' Bly | | |
| WR | Roy Williams | SS | Kenoy Kennedy | | |
| WR | Mike Williams | FS | Terrence Holt | | |

## ON THE RISE

**SHAUN ROGERS**
defensive tackle
Already a Pro Bowler, he should get even better under Marinelli.

## FADING FAST

**MARCUS POLLARD**
tight end
He isn't expected to be a focal point in Mike Martz's offense.

# Motor City morass

The Ford family hopes a more disciplined approach by its latest new coach, Rod Marinelli, can clean up the mess that Millen made.

Matt Millen is the dean of NFC North football bosses. He was hired ahead of Chicago General Manager Jerry Angelo in 2001 and before Green Bay brought in Ted Thompson in 2005 and Minnesota's new owner, Zygi Wilf, added Fran Foley to run his draft this year. Millen's record of 21-59 is No. 32 in the league over five years, yet the Ford family figures it has worse problems with its primary business, the automobile. Besides, if Millen sticks around long enough, he's bound to do something right.

Rod Marinelli hopes to be that something. He is Millen's third head coach, following Marty Mornhinweg and Steve Mariucci. Marinelli was Tampa Bay's defensive line coach, the man ex-Bucs personnel chief Angelo credits with molding Warren Sapp and Simeon Rice into All-Pros.

Lovie Smith wanted to hire Marinelli as his defensive coordinator with the Bears and Mariucci wanted to hire him for the same position in Detroit. With so many people ringing the doorbell, Millen decided to find out about the fuss. It is unconventional to hire a position coach as a head coach in the NFL and bypass the coordinator step. But the Lions have already made so many mistakes that nobody is keeping count anymore. If it works, Millen will be hailed as an inspired leader.

Marinelli turned around and hired two strong coordinators in ex-Rams Head Coach Mike Martz and ex-Jets Defensive Coordinator Donnie Henderson. This was proof that Marinelli is intent on changing the losing culture. Marinelli's approach is as direct as his military background. The idea is to instill discipline into a talented but young bunch that had no idea how to prepare or practice, let alone win.

"The way I try to deliver it, my whole career, is direct—tell them exactly what I want," Marinelli says. "I don't try to give any glitter to it or fluff to it. I've had success doing this, and Mike Martz has had success doing it this way. And Donnie. All three of us have won the Super Bowl. It's the same kind of message—tempo and great practice habits."

In Tampa, Marinelli popularized the phrase "pound the rock."

"I've always had that feeling of one snap at a time," Marinelli explains. "Just pounding the rock is playing one play, playing the play. It's the belief the rock

NFL HELMET COURTESY SCOREHERE.COM. AVAILABLE FOR ORDER AT WWW.SCOREHERE.COM OR CALL: 800-784-2990.

## THE BOOK ON ... ROY WILLIAMS

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"I had to laugh when I saw Williams mention how precise [Mike] Martz's routes are. Players from [the University of] Texas can have a tough transition to the pros because they're babied down there. If they can get this guy to step up and dedicate himself to becoming great, he'll be another Terrell Owens on the field. He has more physical tools than Torry Holt, and look what Martz did with him on those deep crossing routes. Big, fast, tough over the middle. Catches with his hands, runs after the catch. The drops are nothing other than a lack of concentration. He's been frustrated and he has to snap out of it."

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

**FACT**

The 2005 Lions ran for just 1,471 yards, 569 fewer than their opponents, and were 0-10 when outrushed.

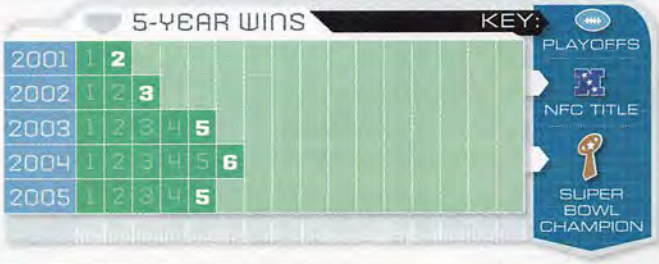
**STAT**

The Lions had 53 tackles for loss, tied for the fifth most in the league, and the most by Detroit since 1999 when it registered 62.

**LOOK IT UP**

Punter Nick Harris led the league with seven punts downed inside the five-year line last season.

**5-YEAR WINS**




**LIONS' BEST-EVER COACHES**

1. RAYMOND PARKER (6 YEARS)
   **Record with Lions:** 50-24-2
2. POTSY CLARK (4 YEARS)
   **Record with Lions:** 31-15-3
3. GEORGE WILSON (8 YEARS)
   **Record with Lions:** 55-45-6

**THE COUNT**

**2**
Blocked field goals in '05. Detroit is the only NFL team to record at least two in each of the last five seasons.

**51**
Opponents' drives starting inside the the Lions' 20-yard line, the most in the NFL last season.

**2,848**
Passing yards in 2005, Detroit's fewest since the 1988 season when it had 2,572.

will crack. On that outside, it looks all the same. But inside, it may be crumbling. So you never know what snap's going to break it, what swing's going to break that rock. Bam. Focus. Every down. Just pounding that thing with everything you have. Either it breaks or it doesn't break. That's not the issue. It's the swing that counts."

At press time, QB Joey Harrington wanted out, so Marinelli brought in Jon Kitna and Josh McCown and turned Martz loose on them. Last year's fifth-round pick from Connecticut, Dan Orlovsky, is also a candidate. Martz transformed Kurt Warner from an Arena League star to a two-time NFL MVP. He turned Marc Bulger from a reject into an above-average starter.

Martz's wide-open approach, perfectly suited for indoor stadiums such as Ford Field, doesn't seem to fit either Marinelli's style or Detroit's personnel, so the marriage may require some adjustments. Martz has been known to ignore the running game, but Marshall Faulk was also a league MVP in St. Louis. Scoring is Martz's emphasis and the Lions were the lowest-scoring offense in the division last year.

The unacceptable 3.6-yard rushing average of second-year pro Kevin Jones was a big disappointment Martz intends to correct. Martz is never going to pound the ball, and there is still some question about how blocking fullback Cory Schlesinger will fit, but Jones remains a focal point. He's backed up by Shawn Bryson, Artose Pinner and rookie Brian Calhoun, who has the receiving skills Martz likes.

The wide receivers Millen has collected remain enticing, yet the Lions were led in receptions last season by veteran tight end Marcus Pollard. Wideouts Roy Williams and Mike Williams look like the starters again, with Charles Rogers and Scottie Vines also getting plenty of opportunity in an offense that will definitely be wideout-friendly.

## NFL DRAFT 2006 DRAFT REPORT

After signing Jon Kitna and Josh McCown in free agency, the Lions passed on Matt Leinart and selected outside linebacker **Ernie Sims**. He fits into the Tampa-2 scheme extremely well, but must overcome a history of concussions. **Daniel Bullocks** was a second-round selection, like his brother, Josh, last year with the Saints, and will backup strong safety Kenoy Kennedy. **Brian Calhoun** was a solid talent to pick up in the third round, but halfback was not a position of urgent need for the Lions. **Jonathan Scott** was considered a first-round talent, but failed to impress at his workout, dropped in the weeks leading up to the draft and fell all the way to the fifth round. He could turn out to be a steal and the replacement for Jeff Backus at left tackle. **Dee McCann** is a physical corner who replaced Adam Jones (Titans) at West Virginia. **Fred Matua**, a standout on the Southern Cal offensive line, surprisingly lasted until the final round. **Anthony Cannon** was a productive linebacker at Tulane, but will need to impress on special teams to make the final roster. The second-day selections will definitely impact Detroit down the road.

GRADE: **C+**

**2006 DRAFTEES**

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | Sims, Ernie | LB | 5-11 | 232 | Florida State |
| 2 | 8 | Bullocks, Daniel | S | 6-0 | 213 | Nebraska |
| 3 | 10 | Calhoun, Brian | RB | 5-9 | 202 | Wisconsin |
| 5 | 8 | Scott, Jonathan | T | 6-6 | 314 | Texas |
| 6 | 10 | McCann, Dee | DB | 5-11 | 198 | West Virginia |
| 7 | 9 | Matua, Fred | G | 6-2 | 307 | USC |
| 7 | 39 | Cannon, Anthony | LB | 5-10 | 226 | Tulane |

**HE SAID IT:**

**There's one voice for discipline: mine. There's one voice for leadership: mine.**
*—new Detroit Coach Rod Marinelli on his style of coaching*

**2006 SCHEDULE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 1** vs. Seattle | SEPT. 10 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 2** @ Chicago | SEPT. 17 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 3** vs. Green Bay | SEPT. 24 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 4** @ St. Louis | OCT. 1 | 4:05 |
| **WEEK 5** @ Minnesota | OCT. 8 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 6** vs. Buffalo | OCT. 15 | 1:00 |

★ **MUST-SEE GAME** ★
*New Lions Coach Rod Marinelli, a defensive specialist, goes against the Bills' new coach and former Lions interim coach, Dick Jauron—another defensive guru.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 7** @ New York Jets | OCT. 22 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 8** *OPEN DATE* | | |
| **WEEK 9** vs. Atlanta | NOV. 5 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 10** vs. San Francisco | NOV. 12 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 11** @ Arizona | NOV. 19 | 4:05 |
| **WEEK 12** vs. Miami | NOV. 23 | 12:30 |
| **WEEK 13** @ New England | DEC. 3 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 14** vs. Minnesota | DEC. 10 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 15** @ Green Bay | DEC. 17 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 16** vs. Chicago | DEC. 24 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 17** @ Dallas | DEC. 31 | 1:00 |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | W | 17-3 | Green Bay |
| 09/18 | L | 6-38 | at Chicago |
| 10/02 | L | 13-17 | at Tampa Bay |
| 10/09 | W | 35-17 | Baltimore |
| 10/16 | L | 20-21 | Carolina |
| 10/23 | W | 13-10 | at Cleveland |
| 10/30 | L | 13-19 | Chicago |
| 11/06 | L | 14-27 | at Minnesota |
| 11/13 | W | 29-21 | Arizona |
| 11/20 | L | 7-20 | at Dallas |
| 11/24 | L | 7-27 | Atlanta |
| 12/04 | L | 16-21 | Minnesota |
| 12/11 | L | 13-16 | at Green Bay |
| 12/18 | L | 17-41 | Cincinnati |
| 12/24 | W | 13-12 | at New Orleans |
| 01/01 | L | 21-35 | at Pittsburgh |

WON **5**, LOST **11**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jones | 186 | 664 | 3.6 | 40 | 5 |
| Pinner | 106 | 349 | 3.3 | 19 | 3 |
| Bryson | 64 | 306 | 4.8 | 77t | 1 |
| Harrington | 24 | 80 | 3.3 | 15 | 0 |
| Garcia | 17 | 51 | 3.0 | 14 | 1 |
| P. Smith | 4 | 16 | 4.0 | 6 | 0 |
| Vines | 1 | 7 | 7.0 | 7 | 0 |
| Schlesinger | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 |
| Drummond | 1 | -3 | -3.0 | -3 | 0 |
| **Lions** | **404** | **1471** | **3.6** | **77t** | **10** |
| **Opponents** | **488** | **2040** | **4.2** | **64t** | **15** |

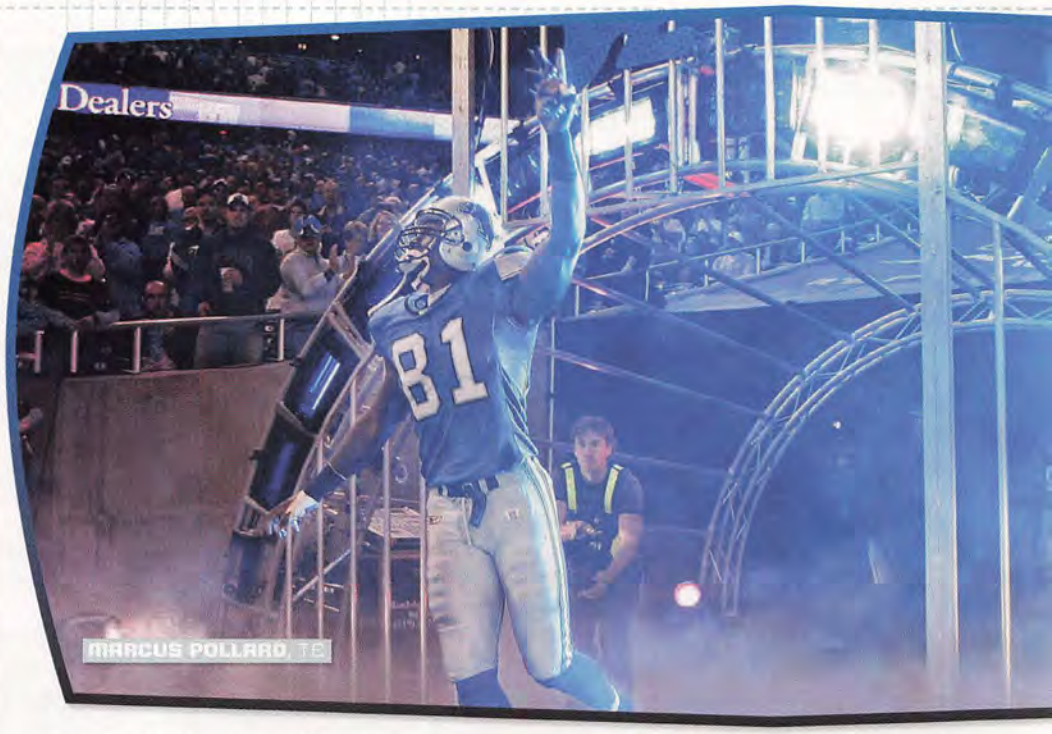
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pollard | 46 | 516 | 11.2 | 86 | 3 |
| R. Williams | 45 | 687 | 15.3 | 51t | 8 |
| Vines | 40 | 417 | 10.4 | 40 | 0 |
| Bryson | 37 | 284 | 7.7 | 63 | 0 |
| M. Williams | 29 | 350 | 12.1 | 49 | 1 |
| Pinner | 21 | 181 | 8.6 | 24 | 0 |
| Jones | 20 | 109 | 5.5 | 28 | 0 |
| K. Johnson | 17 | 133 | 7.8 | 25 | 0 |
| C. Rogers | 14 | 197 | 14.1 | 35t | 1 |
| Fitzsimmons | 10 | 45 | 4.5 | 11 | 1 |
| Schlesinger | 8 | 31 | 3.9 | 8 | 1 |
| P. Smith | 6 | 49 | 8.2 | 11 | 0 |
| T. Edwards | 2 | 15 | 7.5 | 8 | 0 |
| Martinez | 1 | 11 | 11.0 | 11 | 0 |
| Harrington | 1 | -4 | -4.0 | -4 | 0 |
| **Lions** | **297** | **3021** | **10.2** | **86** | **15** |
| **Opponents** | **295** | **3305** | **11.2** | **80t** | **19** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harrington | 330 | 188 | 2021 | 12 | 12 |
| Garcia | 173 | 102 | 937 | 3 | 6 |
| Orlovsky | 17 | 7 | 63 | 0 | 0 |
| **Lions** | **520** | **297** | **3021** | **15** | **18** |
| **Opponents** | **487** | **295** | **3305** | **19** | **19** |

**SACKS**

K. Edwards 7, S. Rogers 5.5, Hall 5, DeVries 3, Wilkinson 3, Cody 1.5, Bailey 1, Redding 1, K. Smith 1, Woods 1

**Lions 31, Opponents 31**




MATTHEW EMMONS / US PRESSWIRE

Corey Bradford was signed from Houston to help the depth at receiver. Martz recommended the signing of ex-receiver Mike Furrey, who started 11 games at free safety in St. Louis last year. He could either return to wideout and help Martz install his system, or help at safety. Tight end Dan Campbell was signed from Dallas to help with the in-line blocking, while Casey FitzSimmons remains as another backup to Pollard.

Martz-coached quarterbacks need plenty of time from the offensive line to make deep drops, so tackles Jeff Backus and Kelly Butler, guards Rick DeMulling and Damien Woody and center Dominic Raiola will be tested. Veterans Rex Tucker and Barry Stokes were added in free agency and Tucker could push DeMulling at left guard. Courtney Van Buren will push Butler at right tackle, with Victor Rogers and Brock Gutierrez providing depth. Draft picks Jonathan Scott and Fred Matua have starting potential.

Marinelli must pay particular attention to his defensive line to set the tone, starting with tackle Shaun Rogers, who has at least as much ability as Sapp and could shine even more in this system. Now that sidekick Dan Wilkinson is hinting at retirement, second-year prospect Shaun Cody looks ready for full-time duty, with Marcus Bell backing him up. James Hall, Cory Redding, Jared DeVries and Kalimba Edwards give the Lions a veteran rotation at defensive end, joined by veteran Tyoka Jackson, who played for Marinelli in Tampa and Martz in St. Louis. Edwards led the team in sacks last year with seven.

After seeing what Derrick Brooks did for Tampa's defense, Marinelli jumped at the chance to make Florida State linebacker Ernie Sims his first draft choice, passing up quarterbacks Matt Leinart and Jay Cutler to grab him. The weakside linebacker will be the key in the Tampa-2 system.

Four Detroit linebackers ended last season on injured reserve, but Boss Bailey, Earl Holmes, Teddy Lehman and Alex Lewis are all

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Lions)*

"[Rod] Marinelli will make a big difference because they needed to change the culture over there. [The Lions were] too lackadaisical, starting in practice. No more. It might take a while, especially starting over with a new offense and new defense and so many young players. I don't know if hiring [Mike] Martz was as great an idea as some people think. It shows Marinelli isn't looking over his shoulder, but I've got to wonder if the wide-open philosophy will clash with Marinelli's defensive background. It seemed to work when Lovie Smith was Martz's defensive coordinator and Marinelli consulted Smith about Martz, so maybe it will work. They have some talent. They just need discipline. Martz will manufacture a quarterback; it doesn't matter if it's [Jon] Kitna or [Josh] McCown."

COURTESY NFL

expected back healthy. Bailey is slated to shift to the middle, with Lehman playing the strongside. That gives Marinelli three fast starters. Sims suffered from concussions at FSU because he hit so recklessly, so there is additional concern about durability at the position. James Davis, Wali Rainer, LeVar Woods and Donte' Curry all received starting experience during the spate of injuries in 2005. Paris Lenon was added from Green Bay and Anthony Cannon was drafted.

Fernando Bryant also finished on injured reserve and is expected back as a starter at cornerback opposite Dre' Bly. Jamar Fletcher was signed from San Diego to compete with Keith Smith, Stanley Wilson and rookie Dee McCann for playing time at corner.

Safety is a pivotal position for the Lions and they're hoping second-round pick Daniel Bullocks is ready to at least give Terrence Holt, who's also coming off injured reserve, competition for the starting role at free safety. That's why signing Furrey was important. Hard-hitting Kenoy Kennedy remains at strong safety. Bracy Walker, Jon McGraw, Vernon Fox, Idrees Bashir and Scott McGarrahan are the backups.

Jason Hanson enters his 15th season as the Lions' placekicker. Nick Harris is the punter and Eddie Drummond is one of the league's best return men when healthy.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Jon Kitna**, QB (CIN)
- **Corey Bradford**, WR (HOU)
- **Idrees Bashir**, DB (CAR)
- **Dan Campbell**, TE (DAL)
- **Paris Lenon**, LB (GB)
- **Josh McCown**, QB (ARI)
- **Barry Stokes**, OT (ATL)
- **Rex Tucker**, OG (STL)
- **Courtney Van Buren**, OG (SD)
- **Arlen Harris**, RB (STL)
- **Mike Furrey**, DB/WR (STL)
- **Damian Gregory**, DT (TB)
- **Cleveland Pinkney**, DT (SEA)
- **Brett Fischer**, WR (KC)
- **Tyoka Jackson**, DT (STL)
- **Jamar Fletcher**, DB (SD)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Jeff Garcia**, QB (PHI)
- **Kyle Kosier**, OT (DAL)
- **Andre Goodman**, CB (MIA)
- **R.W. McQuarters**, CB (NYG)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 269.9 | 27 |
| Rushing | 91.9 | 26 |
| Passing | 178.0 | 26 |
| Scoring | 254 | 28 |
| Punt Returns | 7.6 | 19t |
| Kick Returns | 21.6 | 20t |
| Red Zone TD % | 50.0 | 15t |
| Total Defense | 322.4 | 20 |
| Against Rush | 127.5 | 24 |
| Against Pass | 194.9 | 13 |
| Points Allowed | 345 | 21 |
| Interceptions | 19 | 7t |
| Sacks | 31 | 24 |
| Turnover Diff. | +1 | 14t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 258 | 69 | 151 | 38 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 36 | 162 | 18 | 12 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | 15 | 0 | 3 |

## LIONS ROSTER

**Rod Marinelli, head coach**; **Mike Martz**, off. coord.; **Mike Barry**, asst. off. line; **Larry Beightol**, off. line; **Kippy Brown**, wide receivers; **Pat Carter**, tight ends; **Shawn Jefferson**, off. asst.; **Wilbert Montgomery**, running backs; **Donnie Henderson**, def. coord.; **Don Clemons**, def. asst.; **Joe Cullen**, def. line; **Clayton Lopez**, def. backs; **Fred Reed**, def. asst.; **Phil Snow**, linebackers; **Chuck Priefer**, special teams coord.; **Stan Kwan**, special teams asst.

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | King, Shaun | QB | 6-1 | 228 | 05/29/1977 | 6 | Tulane |
| 8 | Kitna, Jon | QB | 6-2 | 225 | 09/21/1972 | 9 | Central Wash. |
| 12 | McCown, Josh | QB | 6-4 | 213 | 07/04/1979 | 4 | Sam Houston St. |
| 6 | Orlovsky, Dan | QB | 6-5 | 225 | 08/18/1983 | 1 | Connecticut |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 76 | Backus, Jeff | T | 6-5 | 305 | 09/21/1977 | 5 | Michigan |
| 79 | Butler, Kelly | T | 6-7 | 334 | 07/24/1982 | 1 | Purdue |
| 64 | DeMulling, Rick | G | 6-4 | 304 | 07/21/1977 | 5 | Idaho |
| 63 | Gutierrez, Brock | G | 6-3 | 304 | 09/25/1973 | 9 | Central Michigan |
| 69 | Hopson, Tyrone | G | 6-2 | 294 | 05/28/1976 | 4 | Eastern Kentucky |
| 48 | Muhlbach, Don | C | 6-4 | 256 | 08/17/1981 | 2 | Texas A&M |
| 66 | Newton, Levi | G | 6-4 | 310 | 06/30/1983 | 0 | South Florida |
| 60 | Pearson, Dave | C | 6-3 | 297 | 03/29/1981 | 0 | Michigan |
| 51 | Raiola, Dominic | C | 6-1 | 295 | 12/30/1978 | 5 | Nebraska |
| 71 | Rogers, Victor | T | 6-6 | 331 | 11/10/1978 | 1 | Colorado |
| 62 | Stickdorn, Clint | T | 6-6 | 327 | 04/30/1982 | 0 | Cincinnati |
| 68 | Stokes, Barry | T | 6-4 | 310 | 12/20/1973 | 6 | Eastern Michigan |
| 74 | Tucker, Rex | T | 6-5 | 315 | 12/20/1976 | 6 | Texas A&M |
| 77 | VanBuren, Courtney | T | 6-6 | 350 | 02/22/1980 | 2 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff |
| 65 | Woody, Damien | G | 6-3 | 325 | 11/03/1977 | 7 | Boston College |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 24 | Bryson, Shawn | RB | 6-1 | 230 | 11/20/1976 | 6 | Tennessee |
| 33 | Harris, Arlen | RB | 5-10 | 212 | 04/22/1980 | 3 | Virginia |
| 34 | Jones, Kevin | RB | 5-11 | 221 | 08/21/1982 | 2 | Virginia Tech |
| 21 | Pinner, Artose | RB | 5-10 | 235 | 01/05/1978 | 3 | Kentucky |
| 30 | Schlesinger, Cory | RB | 6-0 | 247 | 06/23/1972 | 11 | Nebraska |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 17 | Bradford, Corey | WR | 6-1 | 201 | 12/08/1975 | 8 | Jackson State |
| 89 | Campbell, Dan | TE | 6-5 | 262 | 04/13/1976 | 7 | Texas A&M |
| 47 | Dickerson, Kori | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 12/06/1978 | 1 | USC |
| 18 | Drummond, Eddie | WR | 5-9 | 190 | 04/12/1980 | 4 | Penn State |
| 82 | FitzSimmons, Casey | TE | 6-4 | 258 | 10/10/1980 | 3 | Carroll (MT) |
| 84 | Martinez, Glenn | WR | 6-2 | 183 | 11/30/1981 | 1 | Saginaw Valley |
| 49 | McHugh, Sean | TE | 6-5 | 265 | 05/27/1982 | 2 | Penn State |
| 81 | Pollard, Marcus | TE | 6-3 | 247 | 02/08/1972 | 11 | Bradley |
| 80 | Rogers, Charles | WR | 6-3 | 220 | 05/23/1981 | 3 | Michigan State |
| 83 | Vines, Scottie | WR | 6-1 | 204 | 04/17/1979 | 2 | Wyoming |
| 88 | Williams, Mike | WR | 6-4 | 229 | 01/04/1984 | 1 | USC |
| 11 | Williams, Roy | WR | 6-2 | 212 | 12/20/1981 | 2 | Texas |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 94 | Bell, Marcus | DT | 6-2 | 339 | 06/01/1979 | 5 | Memphis |
| 62 | Carberry, Kevin | DE | 6-4 | 271 | 05/19/1983 | 0 | Ohio |
| 75 | Cody, Shaun | DT | 6-4 | 293 | 01/22/1983 | 1 | USC |
| 95 | DeVries, Jared | DE | 6-4 | 275 | 06/11/1976 | 7 | Iowa |
| 98 | Edwards, Kalimba | DE | 6-6 | 265 | 12/26/1979 | 4 | South Carolina |
| 93 | Gregory, Damian | DT | 6-2 | 305 | 01/21/1977 | 3 | Illinois State |
| 96 | Hall, James | DE | 6-2 | 280 | 02/04/1977 | 6 | Michigan |
| 91 | Jackson, Tyoka | DE | 6-2 | 280 | 11/22/1971 | 11 | Penn State |
| 67 | Pinkney, Cleveland | DT | 6-1 | 300 | 09/14/1977 | 2 | South Carolina |
| 78 | Redding, Cory | DE | 6-4 | 290 | 11/15/1980 | 3 | Texas |
| 92 | Rogers, Shaun | DT | 6-4 | 345 | 03/12/1979 | 5 | Texas |
| 90 | Swancutt, Bill | DE | 6-4 | 270 | 09/04/1982 | 1 | Oregon State |
| 72 | Wilkinson, Dan | DT | 6-4 | 335 | 03/13/1973 | 12 | Ohio State |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 28 | Bashir, Idrees | S | 6-2 | 198 | 12/07/1978 | 5 | Memphis |
| 32 | Bly, Dre' | CB | 5-9 | 185 | 05/22/1977 | 7 | North Carolina |
| 25 | Bryant, Fernando | CB | 5-10 | 175 | 03/26/1977 | 7 | Alabama |
| 36 | Fox, Vernon | S | 5-10 | 197 | 10/09/1979 | 4 | Fresno State |
| 87 | Furrey, Mike | S | 6-0 | 185 | 05/12/1977 | 3 | Northern Iowa |
| 42 | Holt, Terrence | S | 6-2 | 208 | 03/05/1980 | 3 | North Carolina St. |
| 26 | Kennedy, Kenoy | S | 6-1 | 215 | 11/15/1977 | 6 | Arkansas |
| 38 | McGraw, Jon | S | 6-3 | 206 | 04/02/1979 | 4 | Kansas State |
| 23 | Smith, Keith | CB | 5-11 | 192 | 03/20/1980 | 2 | McNeese State |
| 31 | Wilson, Stanley | CB | 5-11 | 185 | 11/05/1982 | 1 | Stanford |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 97 | Bailey, Boss | LB | 6-3 | 235 | 10/14/1979 | 2 | Georgia |
| 47 | Benoit, Sarth | LB | 6-2 | 220 | 02/06/1979 | 0 | New Haven |
| 55 | Curry, Donte' | LB | 6-1 | 233 | 07/22/1978 | 5 | Morris Brown |
| 52 | Davis, James | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 04/26/1979 | 3 | West Virginia |
| 54 | Lehman, Teddy | LB | 6-2 | 238 | 11/18/1981 | 2 | Oklahoma |
| 53 | Lenon, Paris | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 11/26/1977 | 4 | Richmond |
| 59 | Lewis, Alex | LB | 6-0 | 227 | 06/11/1981 | 2 | Wisconsin |
| 57 | Woods, LeVar | LB | 6-3 | 244 | 03/15/1978 | 5 | Iowa |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 4 | Hanson, Jason | K | 5-11 | 182 | 06/17/1970 | 14 | Washington State |
| 2 | Harris, Nick | P | 6-2 | 218 | 07/23/1978 | 5 | California |

# NFC SOUTH

## Smashmouth football required to win throwback 'Dirty South'

By **Pat Yasinskas** *The Charlotte Observer*

Take the NFL's top rushing offense and two of the league's three best defenses and put them together.

What you have is the NFC South, even though it may sound like the NFC Central or the NFC East of the 1970s and early 1980s. In each of its four years of existence, the NFC South has sent a team at least as far as the NFC Championship Game. At the same time, the NFC South has defined its style of play more clearly than any other division.

The brief history has shown that if you're going to win in the NFC South, you have to be able to run the football and play strong defense.

"It's a division that starts with real good defense," New Orleans Coach Sean Payton says. "When you look at Tampa Bay and Carolina and you look at Atlanta two years ago, I think it's a division that maybe reminds you a little bit of what the NFC East once was. Everyone you're going to see in the division is going to do a great job attempting to run the football. And you've obviously got accomplished defenses."

Tampa Bay ranked No. 1 in the league in total defense last season and won the division title. Carolina ranked No. 3 and made it to the NFC Championship Game. Atlanta led the league in rushing offense and stayed in the playoff hunt until the end of the season. The formula for success in this division has been set and fans are likely to see a lot more of the same.

The Carolina Panthers' NFC title-game loss to Seattle exposed a few weaknesses that the team spent the offseason trying to repair. They rebuilt the middle of their defensive line to be able to better stop the run and tried to find diversity for an offense that relied almost single-handedly on All-Pro receiver Steve Smith.

On paper, the Panthers succeeded in both areas, and that makes them the favorite to win the division and a strong candidate to represent the NFC in the Super Bowl. Defensive tackles Damione Lewis and Maake Kemoeatu were signed as free agents to beef up the middle of a defensive line that could be outstanding if tackle Kris Jenkins returns at full strength after his second straight season-ending injury.

**PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:**


1 p.152

2 p.156

3 p.160

4 p.164


The Panthers, generally about as straight-laced as any team in the league, rolled the dice to sign sometimes-controversial receiver Keyshawn Johnson to help keep teams from devoting too much attention to Smith.

But, more than anything, the Panthers want to get back to running the ball the way they did in the 2003 season when they went to the Super Bowl. The addition of center Justin Hartwig from the Titans should make the line better, but the real key will be the play of feature back DeShaun Foster, whose career has been plagued by injuries, and rookie DeAngelo Williams. If Foster and Williams can produce consistently on the ground, Carolina might set the prototype for the NFC South's style of football.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers were the league's top defense—led by perennial Pro Bowl linebacker Derrick Brooks—and that unit is the main reason the Bucs shocked almost everyone and went 11-5 last season. That defense remains pretty much in place, but Tampa Bay's ability to defend its division crown could depend even more so on a very young offense.

Quarterback Chris Simms and running back Carnell Williams are coming off strong years in their first seasons as starters. Simms, who was 5-1 in division starts, will continue to get better and Williams already is one of the league's top backs.

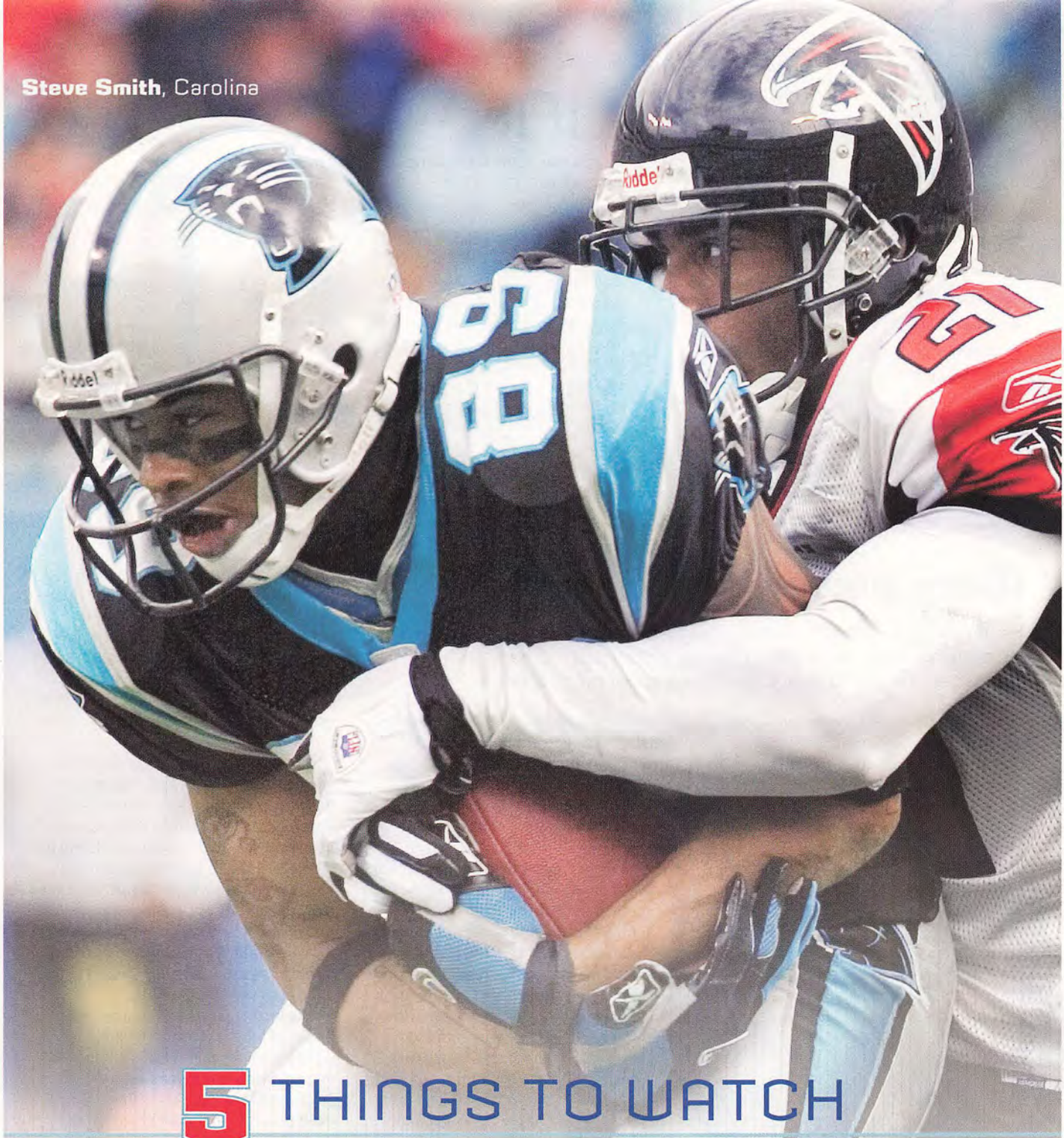
If veteran receiver Joey Galloway can have another season like 2005 and young wideout Michael Clayton can rebound from the sophomore slump, the Bucs could be as good as any team in the NFC.

On paper, the Atlanta Falcons have as much talent as anyone. The Falcons have incredible individual athletes in quarterback Michael Vick, tight end Alge Crumpler, cornerback DeAngelo Hall and linebacker Keith Brooking.

But the Falcons had those same players last year and it wasn't enough to get the team to the playoffs. How Atlanta rebounds from that disappointment could be critical for the future of Coach Jim Mora and the entire organization.

Team owner Arthur Blank has spent a fortune on players, staff and facilities, and he can't afford to be patient for too long. Vick might be the league's best athlete, but has to prove, once and for all, that he can play consistently at the quarterback position. If Vick can do that, the sky is the limit.

Starting over is exactly what the New Orleans Saints are doing. After a disastrous 3-13 season in which they were uprooted due to Hurricane Katrina, the Saints unloaded former Coach Jim Haslett and franchise quarterback Aaron Brooks. They brought in Payton and quarterback Drew Brees as replacements. Brees and first-round draft pick Reggie Bush could bring a new facet to the offense.



**Steve Smith**, Carolina

BOB DONNAN / US PRESSWIRE

# 5 THINGS TO WATCH

**1**

The two meetings between the Bucs and Panthers (Sept. 24 at Tampa Bay and Nov. 13 at Carolina). Tampa Bay Coach Jon Gruden and Carolina Panthers wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson had a nasty feud when Johnson was with Tampa Bay (2002-03), and there's always been bad blood between these two teams.

**2**

Atlanta Coach Jim Mora. He started showing signs at the end of last year that the stress was getting to him. At times he looked like he was about to unravel the way Sam Wyche did in Cincinnati and Tampa Bay. A slow start could put lots of pressure on the high-strung Mora.

**3**

Falcons quarterback Michael Vick. We've been hearing about his athletic ability for years, but the Falcons have never figured out how to take advantage of it and Vick has criticized the way he has been used. It's time for both sides to come up with a solution.

**4**

How long it takes for rookie Reggie Bush to replace Deuce McAllister as New Orleans' feature back. McAllister's a very good running back, but Bush has the potential to be the best back to enter the league in years.

**5**

The pass distribution between Keyshawn Johnson and Steve Smith in Carolina. Johnson is claiming he knows Smith is the No. 1 receiver and that he joined the Panthers to play a complementary role. But Johnson hasn't always been so selfless in the past and it remains to be seen if he can change.

2005 RECORD: 11-5 | www.panthers.com

# CAROLINA PANTHERS

NFC SOUTH #1

BANK OF AMERICA STADIUM
CAPACITY: 73,298 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 704-358-7800

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 4 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 3 |
| RECEIVERS | 5 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 5 |
| LINEBACKERS | 3 |
| SECONDARY | 4 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 5 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Jake Delhomme | LE | Julius Peppers | P | Jason Baker |
| FB | Brad Hoover | LT | Maake Kemoeatu | PR | Steve Smith |
| RB | DeShaun Foster | RT | Kris Jenkins | K | John Kasay |
| LT | Travelle Wharton | RE | Mike Rucker | KR | Jamal Robertson |
| LG | Mike Wahle | LLB | Na'il Diggs | | |
| C | Justin Hartwig | MLB | Dan Morgan | | |
| RG | Evan Mathis | RLB | Thomas Davis | | |
| RT | Jordan Gross | LCB | Chris Gamble | | |
| TE | Kris Mangum | RCB | Ken Lucas | | |
| WR | Steve Smith | SS | Mike Minter | | |
| WR | Keyshawn Johnson | FS | Colin Branch | | |

**ON THE RISE**

**THOMAS DAVIS**
linebacker
After struggling at safety, Davis is expected to move in as an every-down linebacker.

**FADING FAST**

**MIKE RUCKER**
defensive end
His sack totals have stayed below double digits in each of the last two seasons.

# More power in their prowl

## Shoring up their weaknesses with key offseason acquisitions, the Panthers are out to prove they're more than the 'Steve Smith Show.'

As the Carolina Panthers walked off Qwest Field after losing the NFC Championship Game to the Seattle Seahawks in January, they already knew they'd have to make drastic changes.

Sure, the team they put on the field that day was good enough to go deep into the playoffs once. But it probably couldn't happen again if the Panthers stayed with the status quo, mainly because of the holes Seattle exploited that day.

After getting by with smoke, mirrors and a whole lot of Steve Smith, Seattle showed the Panthers the harsh reality. They couldn't stop the run consistently, they didn't have a running game and Smith could be handcuffed when he draws all the defensive attention. That's why General Manager Marty Hurney and Coach John Fox spent the entire offseason fixing those problems.

After a season in which Fox's team couldn't do what it's supposed to do best, the coach wants to return to basics.

Fox has made it clear from the day he took over the Panthers in 2002 that his formula for success is based on two things: running the football effectively on offense and stopping the run consistently on defense.

Almost immediately after the return trip from Seattle, Fox and Hurney got busy in an effort to get back to the formula. They started on defense by investing heavily in free-agent defensive tackles Maake Kemoeatu (Baltimore) and Damione Lewis (St. Louis). Next they tinkered with the offense, re-signing running back DeShaun Foster and designating him as the feature back while signing free-agent center Justin Hartwig (Titans) to bulk up the offensive line.

Then came perhaps the two biggest moves of all. The Panthers went out and signed wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson to help relieve the defensive pressure on Smith and later used their first-round draft pick on Memphis running back

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## THE BOOK ON ... KEYSHAWN JOHNSON

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"[Coach] John Fox likes to talk about chemistry and character, but he made a deal with the devil when he signed Keyshawn. He's a guy that can rip a locker room apart and they could end up regretting this. The pressure's really going to be on [quarterback] Jake Delhomme. He really is going to have to be a juggler to keep both Johnson and Steve Smith happy by getting them enough balls. Offensive Coordinator Dan Henning should help because he knows how to handle Johnson from his days with the Jets. There's the potential for disaster, but there's also the potential for this to work out well if Smith and Johnson can stay happy and work together. Johnson's a very good possession receiver and he'll bring more balance to the offense. He's also a very good blocker and that's something the Panthers have missed from their receivers since Muhsin Muhammad left."

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; BRIAN A. WESTERHOLT / WIRE IMAGE.COM

### FACT

Wide receiver Steve Smith earned the NFL's triple crown by leading the league with 1,563 receiving yards and tying for the lead in receptions (103, with Arizona's Larry Fitzgerald) and receiving touchdowns (12, with Indianapolis' Marvin Harrison). Smith was the first player to lead all three categories since Green Bay's Sterling Sharpe in 1992.

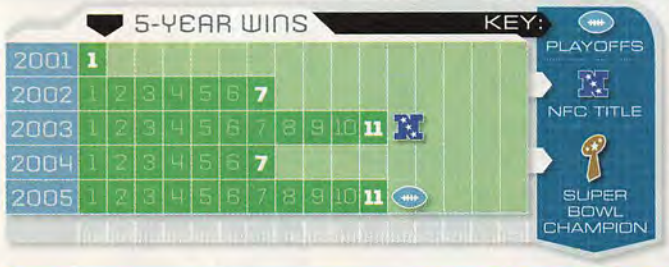
### STAT

In 2005, Carolina had the fewest penalties in the NFL (91) and second-fewest penalty yards (732).

### LOOK IT UP

Carolina quarterback Jake Delhomme is third in NFL history with a career postseason passer rating of 95.0. He trails only Joe Montana and Bart Starr.

### 5-YEAR WINS




### PANTHERS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. JOHN FOX (4 YEARS)
   **Record with Panthers:** 41-30
2. DOM CAPERS (4 YEARS)
   **Record with Panthers:** 31-35
3. GEORGE SEIFERT (3 YEARS)
   **Record with Panthers:** 16-32

### THE COUNT

**42**
Takeaways by the Carolina defense, most in the NFC during the 2005 season.

**38.9**
Net yards per punt for Jason Baker, a team record.

**47.5**
Career sacks by defensive end Mike Rucker, the most in Carolina history.

DeAngelo Williams as insurance in case Foster's long history of injuries continue.

On paper, the Panthers addressed all their needs and upgraded in several areas. But Fox and Hurney know all too well that nothing is guaranteed. They've learned the hard way that injuries and other factors can disrupt the best-laid plans and force a team to break away from its formula.

That's pretty much what happened to the run defense the last two years when All-Pro defensive tackle Kris Jenkins went down with season-ending injuries (shoulder in 2004, right knee in 2005). The Panthers got by with Jordan Carstens and Kindal Moorehead stepping in, but Carolina was no longer dominant against the run.

But the return of a healthy Jenkins and the additions of Kemoeatu and Lewis could return the defensive line to lofty heights. Jenkins and Kemoeatu both are the kind of massive players that can jam the middle and make life much easier for defensive ends Julius Peppers and Mike Rucker and middle linebacker Dan Morgan.

Peppers still thrived when Jenkins was out, but Rucker's production suffered. The Panthers believe better play in the middle could help Peppers and Rucker each produce double-digit sack totals.

Fox's defense is supposed to be built around the defensive line, and that unit will have to play well because there are some major changes at linebacker. Morgan returns after another solid season, but starting outside linebackers Will Witherspoon and Brandon Short departed. Second-year pro Thomas Davis will slide into one of the outside spots, but the other job will come down to a training camp competition involving free-agent pickups Na'il Diggs and Keith Adams, rookie James Anderson and second-year pro Adam Seward.

## NFL DRAFT 2006 — DRAFT REPORT

Halfbacks typically slide some on draft day and the Panthers benefited by the drop of highly productive **DeAngelo Williams** of Memphis into the late first round. **Richard Marshall** is an underrated corner from the WAC who left school early and could have been a first-round selection next year. **James Anderson** lacks size, but should make the final roster due to his play on special teams. **Rashad Butler** was a reach in the third and will need at least a year in the weight-training program. **Nate Salley** has size and speed, but is an inconsistent tackler who has terrible hands for the interception. **Jeff King**, who was lost in a strong class of tight ends, should develop into a solid every-down starter. Athletic **Will Montgomery** will provide depth at guard and center. **Stanley McClover** is a pass-rushing underclassman who waited until the final round to hear his name called. The Panthers could have used some help at wide receiver.

GRADE: **C**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 27 | Williams, DeAngelo | RB | 5-9 | 213 | Memphis |
| 2 | 26 | Marshall, Richard | CB | 5-11 | 188 | Fresno State |
| 3 | 24 | Anderson, James | LB | 6-3 | 230 | Virginia Tech |
| 3 | 25 | Butler, Rashad | T | 6-5 | 292 | Miami (FL) |
| 4 | 24 | Salley, Nate | S | 6-1 | 219 | Ohio State |
| 5 | 22 | King, Jeff | TE | 6-5 | 256 | Virginia Tech |
| 7 | 26 | Montgomery, Will | G | 6-3 | 300 | Virginia Tech |
| 7 | 29 | McClover, Stanley | DE | 6-2 | 261 | Auburn |

### HE SAID IT:

**He can play. He has a Super Bowl ring and I don't. I want one, he has one. It all makes sense to me.**

*—wide receiver Steve Smith on the free-agent signing of Keyshawn Johnson*

### 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 1 vs. Atlanta | SEPT. 10 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 2 @ Minnesota | SEPT. 17 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 3 @ Tampa Bay | SEPT. 24 | 1:00 |
| ★ MUST-SEE GAME ★ | | |
| *It's Keyshawn Johnson vs. Jon Gruden. This rivalry already was the best on Carolina's schedule, but another strong subplot only makes it more interesting.* | | SCORE |
| WEEK 4 vs. New Orleans | OCT. 1 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 5 vs.Cleveland | OCT. 8 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 6 @ Baltimore | OCT. 15 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 7 @ Cincinnati | OCT. 22 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 8 vs. Dallas | OCT. 29 | 8:15 SCORE |
| WEEK 9 *OPEN DATE* | | |
| WEEK 10 vs. Tampa Bay | NOV. 13 | 8:30 SCORE |
| WEEK 11 vs. St. Louis | NOV. 19 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 12 @ Washington | NOV. 26 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 13 @ Philadelphia | DEC. 4 | 8:30 SCORE |
| WEEK 14 vs. New York Giants | DEC. 10 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 15 vs. Pittsburgh | DEC. 17 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 16 @ Atlanta | DEC. 24 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 17 @ New Orleans | DEC. 31 | 1:00 SCORE |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | L | 20-23 | New Orleans |
| 09/18 | W | 27-17 | New England |
| 09/25 | L | 24-27 | at Miami |
| 10/03 | W | 32-29 | Green Bay |
| 10/09 | W | 24-20 | at Arizona |
| 10/16 | W | 21-20 | at Detroit |
| 10/30 | W | 38-13 | Minnesota |
| 11/06 | W | 34-14 | at Tampa Bay |
| 11/13 | W | 30-3 | New York Jets |
| 11/20 | L | 3-13 | at Chicago |
| 11/27 | W | 13-9 | at Buffalo |
| 12/04 | W | 24-6 | Atlanta |
| 12/11 | L | 10-20 | Tampa Bay |
| 12/18 | W | 27-10 | at New Orleans |
| 12/24 | L | 20-24 | Dallas |
| 01/01 | W | 44-11 | at Atlanta |

WON **11**, LOST **5**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foster | 205 | 879 | 4.3 | 70t | 2 |
| S. Davis | 180 | 549 | 3.1 | 39 | 12 |
| Goings | 37 | 133 | 3.6 | 17 | 0 |
| Robertson | 14 | 41 | 2.9 | 11 | 1 |
| Delhomme | 24 | 31 | 1.3 | 12 | 1 |
| S. Smith | 4 | 25 | 6.3 | 20t | 1 |
| Hoover | 10 | 22 | 2.2 | 4 | 0 |
| Colbert | 1 | 6 | 6.0 | 6 | 0 |
| Smart | 3 | 6 | 2.0 | 6 | 0 |
| Weinke | 8 | -5 | -0.6 | 1 | 0 |
| Proehl | 1 | -8 | -8.0 | -8 | 0 |
| **Panthers** | **487** | **1679** | **3.4** | **70t** | **17** |
| **Opponents** | **408** | **1465** | **3.6** | **58** | **9** |

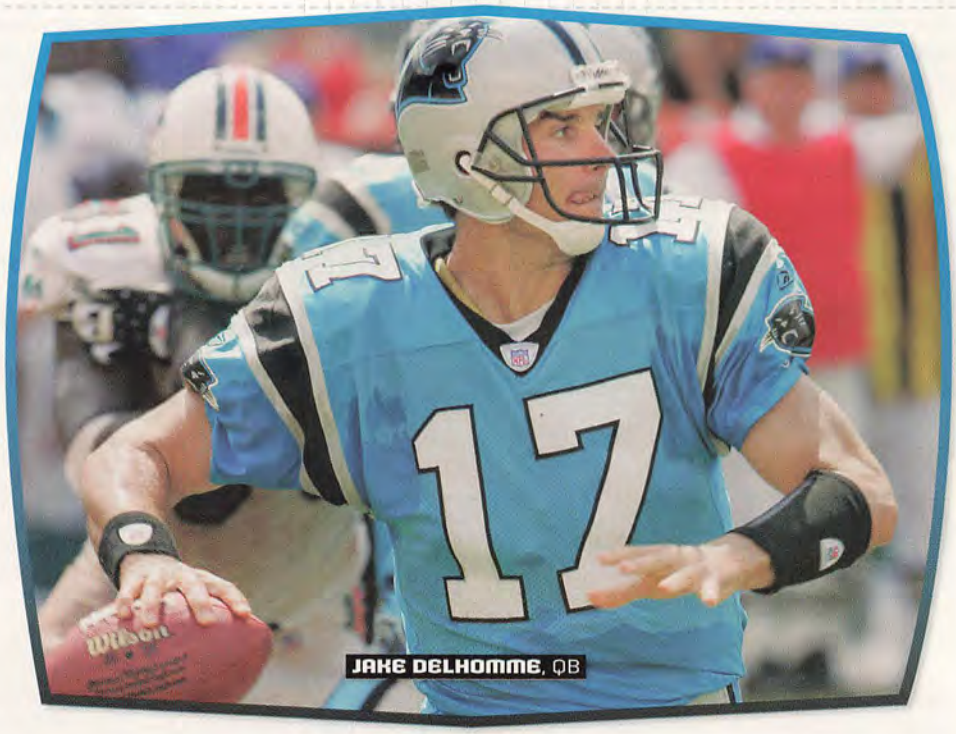
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S. Smith | 103 | 1563 | 15.2 | 80t | 12 |
| Foster | 34 | 372 | 10.9 | 47 | 1 |
| Colbert | 25 | 282 | 11.3 | 42 | 2 |
| Proehl | 25 | 441 | 17.6 | 69 | 4 |
| Mangum | 23 | 202 | 8.8 | 24 | 2 |
| Goings | 14 | 151 | 10.8 | 30 | 0 |
| Hoover | 14 | 87 | 6.2 | 12 | 0 |
| Gaines | 12 | 155 | 12.9 | 38 | 2 |
| Gardner | 9 | 84 | 9.3 | 15 | 1 |
| Carter | 5 | 103 | 20.6 | 40 | 1 |
| S. Davis | 5 | 45 | 9.0 | 21 | 0 |
| **Panthers** | **269** | **3485** | **13.0** | **80t** | **25** |
| **Opponents** | **305** | **3351** | **11.0** | **86** | **15** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Delhomme | 435 | 262 | 3421 | 24 | 16 |
| Weinke | 13 | 7 | 64 | 1 | 0 |
| Foster | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Panthers** | **449** | **269** | **3485** | **25** | **16** |
| **Opponents** | **528** | **305** | **3351** | **15** | **23** |

**SACKS**

Peppers 10.5, Rucker 7.5, Moorehead 5, Wallace 5, Carstens 4, Morgan 3, Witherspoon 2.5, Draft 2, T. Davis 1.5, Minter 1.5, Buckner 1, Short 0.5

**Panthers 45, Opponents 28**



JAKE DELHOMME, QB

DEHOOG TDP / SPORTSCHROME

The key will be Davis, who is expected to be an every-down linebacker because of his ability to drop into pass coverage. The added strength up front also should benefit the secondary. Cornerbacks Ken Lucas and Chris Gamble each had very good seasons last year and they'll be joined by second-round pick Richard Marshall, who will be used in nickel back formations. Those three should match up well against any receiving corps, but there are some questions at safety.

Veteran Mike Minter will start at one safety spot, but the departure of Marlon McCree left a big hole. The Panthers brought in free-agent veteran Shaun Williams as insurance, but they are hoping Colin Branch, who is coming off major knee surgery, can claim the job.

Offensively, Fox wants to get back to where everything revolves around the running game. Much will depend on Foster, who has suffered major injuries in three of his four seasons and had past problems with fumbles. Still, the Panthers saw enough promise in Foster by re-signing him in the offseason (while cutting ties with veteran Stephen Davis), believing he can be an effective feature back.

If Foster struggles or has any injury problems, Williams should be a capable replacement. If Foster thrives, Williams can be a quality backup. Both runners are speed backs and that will create some subtle changes in the way the Panthers approach the running game. With Davis, it was straight ahead running. The Panthers won't abandon that style, but they'll put Foster and Williams in situations where they can run outside or use their cutback ability.

No matter who the running back is, he'll be behind an offensive line that has the potential to be better than last year. Hartwig is an upgrade over Jeff Mitchell, who showed signs of aging last year. The Panthers also got younger at right guard, where they'll hand the spot over to second-year pro Evan Mathis after

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Panthers)*

"They did a really nice job shoring up the defensive line. They knew exactly what kind of defensive linemen they were looking for and they went out and got them. That's important because it all starts up front with Carolina. If Kris Jenkins comes back healthy, they're going to be great up front. Even without him, they'll be a lot better than they were last year. ...

"Losing Will Witherspoon is going to hurt. Thomas Davis has a lot of upside, but he has a lot to learn. The other guys they brought in are just guys. They'll miss Witherspoon's versatility and his intelligence. ...

"You have to admire the way this organization is run. [Coach John] Fox and [GM Marty] Hurney work perfectly together and it shows up in their personnel decisions. Plus, I think one of Fox's strength is his coaching staff. It might be the best in the league and he's been pretty lucky to keep it mostly intact."

letting Tutan Reyes depart in free agency. Mathis' transition should be made easier by the fact he'll play between Hartwig and right tackle Jordan Gross. Left tackle Travelle Wharton struggled at times in his first season, but also showed promise. The Panthers believe Wharton will continue to improve and should benefit from playing next to Pro Bowl left guard Mike Wahle.

The line also will be expected to show improvement in pass protection. Even though Fox is placing most of the emphasis on the running game, he wants to strengthen a passing game that was very good last year.

That's mainly because Smith had an exceptional season, leading the league in receiving yards (1,563) and tying for first in the NFL for catches (103) and receiving touchdowns (12). But the Panthers got almost no other production from their wide receivers. That's why Johnson was signed. Considered an excellent possession receiver, Johnson should take some of the defensive pressure off Smith.

It should help quarterback Jake Delhomme, who is coming off a Pro Bowl season in which he completed more than 60 percent of his passes. That number should rise with help from Johnson and the running game. The Panthers also hope that former starting wide receiver Keary Colbert can revive his career as the third wideout, and they want to get tight ends Kris Mangum and Michael Gaines more involved in the passing game.

The special teams should be a strength of the team. Punter Jason Baker showed a strong leg and improved his direction kicking last year. Kicker John Kasay remains very effective in pressure situations and long snapper Jason Kyle is dependable. The coverage units are solid, but there are some questions in the return game. Smith is one of the league's most dependable punt returners, but the Panthers would like to limit his exposure to injury and could hand the job to Gamble. Kickoff returner Jamal Robertson is reliable, but the Panthers would like more explosiveness and may test Williams or receiver Drew Carter in that role.

However, the return game is one of only a few questions the Panthers have. Fox and Hurney have put the Panthers in a position where they're built to return to doing what they do best and that could make them one of the league's elite teams.

COURTESY NFL

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Keyshawn Johnson**, WR (DAL)
- **Justin Hartwig**, C (TEN)
- **Maake Kemoeatu**, DT (BAL)
- **Damione Lewis**, DT (STL)
- **Kevin McCadam**, DB (ATL)
- **Shaun Williams**, DB (NYG)
- **Reggie Howard**, CB (MIA)
- **Keith Adams**, LB (PHI)
- **Na'il Diggs**, LB (GB)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Marlon McCree**, DB (SD)
- **Will Witherspoon**, LB (STL)
- **Dante Wesley**, CB (CHI)
- **Idrees Bashir**, DB (DET)
- **Kemp Rasmussen**, DE (SEA)
- **Brandon Short**, LB (NYG)
- **Ricky Manning Jr.**, DB (CHI)
- **Tutan Reyes**, OG (BUF)
- **Rod Smart**, RB (OAK)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 309.4 | 21t |
| Rushing | 104.9 | 19 |
| Passing | 204.4 | 17 |
| Scoring | 391 | 8 |
| Punt Returns | 10.8 | 2 |
| Kick Returns | 20.4 | 26 |
| Red Zone TD % | 58.5 | 9 |
| Total Defense | 282.6 | 3 |
| Against Rush | 91.6 | 4 |
| Against Pass | 191.1 | 9 |
| Points Allowed | 259 | 5 |
| Interceptions | 23 | 4 |
| Sacks | 45 | 7 |
| Turnover Diff. | +16 | 3 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 278 | 82 | 157 | 39 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | PG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 53 | 266 | 31 | 17 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17 | 25 | 0 | 3 |

## PANTHERS ROSTER

**John Fox, head coach**; **Dan Henning**, off. coord.; **Mike Trgovac**, def. coord.; **Danny Crossman**, special teams; **Ken Flajole**, linebackers; **Mike Gillhamer**, secondary/def. asst.; **Dave Magazu**, tight ends; **Mike Maser**, off. line; **Mike McCoy**, quarterbacks/off. asst.; **Rod Perry**, secondary; **Jim Skipper**, running backs; **Sal Sunseri**, def. line; **Richard Williamson**, wide receivers

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17 | Delhomme, Jake | QB | 6-2 | 215 | 01/10/1975 | 5 | La.-Lafayette |
| 3 | LeFors, Stefan | QB | 6-0 | 201 | 06/07/1981 | 0 | Louisville |
| 16 | Weinke, Chris | QB | 6-4 | 232 | 07/31/1972 | 3 | Florida State |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| | Beasley, Chad | T | 6-5 | 300 | 11/13/1978 | 1 | Virginia Tech |
| 69 | Gross, Jordan | T | 6-4 | 300 | 07/20/1980 | 3 | Utah |
| 63 | Hangartner, Geoff | C | 6-5 | 301 | 04/22/1982 | 1 | Texas A&M |
| 75 | Hartwig, Justin | C | 6-4 | 312 | 11/21/1978 | 4 | Kansas |
| 61 | Kadela, Dave | T | 6-6 | 304 | 05/06/1978 | 2 | Virginia Tech |
| 71 | Mathis, Evan | G | 6-5 | 304 | 11/01/1981 | 1 | Alabama |
| 68 | Wahle, Mike | G | 6-6 | 304 | 03/29/1977 | 8 | Navy |
| 70 | Wharton, Travelle | T | 6-4 | 312 | 05/19/1981 | 2 | South Carolina |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 49 | Cramer, Casey | RB | 6-2 | 235 | 01/05/1982 | 2 | Dartmouth |
| 26 | Foster, DeShaun | RB | 6-0 | 222 | 01/10/1980 | 3 | UCLA |
| 37 | Goings, Nick | RB | 6-0 | 225 | 01/26/1978 | 5 | Pittsburgh |
| 25 | Haynes, Alex | RB | 5-10 | 225 | 02/13/1982 | 0 | UCF |
| 45 | Hoover, Brad | RB | 6-0 | 245 | 11/11/1976 | 6 | Western Carolina |
| 22 | Robertson, Jamal | RB | 5-10 | 210 | 01/10/1977 | 4 | Ohio Northern |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 18 | Carter, Drew | WR | 6-3 | 200 | 09/05/1981 | 1 | Ohio State |
| | Cherry, Matt | WR | 6-1 | 203 | 12/14/1981 | 0 | Akron |
| 83 | Colbert, Keary | WR | 6-1 | 200 | 05/21/1982 | 2 | USC |
| 84 | Gaines, Michael | TE | 6-3 | 280 | 03/30/1980 | 2 | UCF |
| 88 | Hankton, Karl | WR | 6-2 | 202 | 07/24/1970 | 7 | Trinity (IL) |
| 15 | Hill, Efrem | WR | 6-2 | 185 | 07/23/1983 | 0 | Samford |
| 19 | Johnson, Keyshawn | WR | 6-4 | 214 | 07/22/1972 | 10 | USC |
| 86 | Mangum, Kris | TE | 6-4 | 252 | 08/15/1973 | 9 | Mississippi |
| 85 | Samp, Chris | WR | 6-3 | 224 | 07/12/1980 | 0 | Winona State |
| 82 | Seidman, Mike | TE | 6-4 | 261 | 02/11/1981 | 3 | UCLA |
| 89 | Smith, Steve | WR | 5-9 | 185 | 05/12/1979 | 5 | Utah |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 95 | Alexander, Lorenzo | DT | 6-3 | 300 | 05/31/1983 | 0 | California |
| | Brown, Tony | DE | 6-1 | 280 | 09/29/1980 | 1 | Memphis |
| 67 | Carstens, Jordan | DT | 6-5 | 300 | 01/22/1981 | 2 | Iowa State |
| 98 | Ellison, Atiyyah | DT | 6-3 | 303 | 09/29/1981 | 0 | Missouri |
| | Grigsby, Otis | DE | 6-3 | 260 | 11/19/1980 | 0 | Kentucky |
| 92 | Haye, Jovan | DE | 6-2 | 290 | 06/21/1982 | 1 | Vanderbilt |
| 77 | Jenkins, Kris | DT | 6-4 | 335 | 08/03/1979 | 5 | Maryland |
| 99 | Kemoeatu, Maake | DT | 6-5 | 350 | 01/10/1979 | 4 | Utah |
| 91 | Lewis, Damione | NT | 6-2 | 301 | 03/01/1978 | 5 | Miami (FL) |
| 94 | Moorehead, Kindal | DT | 6-2 | 285 | 10/14/1978 | 3 | Alabama |
| 90 | Peppers, Julius | DE | 6-7 | 283 | 01/18/1980 | 4 | North Carolina |
| 93 | Rucker, Mike | DE | 6-5 | 275 | 02/28/1975 | 7 | Nebraska |
| 96 | Wallace, Al | DE | 6-5 | 275 | 03/25/1974 | 6 | Maryland |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 28 | Branch, Colin | S | 5-11 | 205 | 03/02/1980 | 2 | Stanford |
| 20 | Gamble, Chris | CB | 6-1 | 200 | 03/11/1983 | 2 | Ohio State |
| 29 | Hardy, Jermaine | CB | 5-10 | 213 | 03/20/1982 | 1 | Virginia |
| 23 | Howard, Reggie | CB | 6-0 | 185 | 05/17/1977 | 6 | Memphis |
| 21 | Lucas, Ken | CB | 6-0 | 205 | 01/23/1979 | 5 | Mississippi |
| 25 | McCadam, Kevin | S | 6-1 | 219 | 03/06/1979 | 4 | Virginia Tech |
| 30 | Minter, Mike | S | 5-10 | 195 | 01/15/1974 | 9 | Nebraska |
| 27 | Parker, Billy | S | 6-1 | 195 | 05/17/1981 | 0 | William & Mary |
| 24 | Wilds, Garnell | CB | 5-11 | 195 | 06/08/1981 | 2 | Virginia Tech |
| 36 | Williams, Shaun | S | 6-2 | 218 | 10/10/1976 | 8 | UCLA |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 50 | Adams, Keith | LB | 5-11 | 223 | 11/22/1979 | 5 | Clemson |
| 46 | Bergeron, David | LB | 6-3 | 245 | 12/04/1981 | 0 | Stanford |
| 54 | Ciurciu, Vinny | LB | 6-0 | 235 | 05/02/1980 | 3 | Boston College |
| 58 | Davis, Thomas | S | 6-0 | 231 | 03/22/1983 | 1 | Georgia |
| 53 | Diggs, Na'il | LB | 6-4 | 240 | 07/08/1978 | 6 | Ohio State |
| 52 | Draft, Chris | LB | 5-11 | 232 | 02/26/1976 | 8 | Stanford |
| 48 | Jenkins, Corey | LB | 6-0 | 222 | 08/25/1976 | 2 | South Carolina |
| 56 | Kyle, Jason | LB | 6-3 | 242 | 05/12/1972 | 9 | Arizona State |
| 55 | Morgan, Dan | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 12/19/1978 | 5 | Miami (FL) |
| 59 | Seward, Adam | LB | 6-3 | 248 | 06/15/1982 | 1 | UNLV |
| 57 | Tufts, Sean | LB | 6-3 | 236 | 03/26/1982 | 2 | Colorado |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 7 | Baker, Jason | P | 6-2 | 205 | 05/17/1978 | 5 | Iowa |
| 4 | Kasay, John | K | 5-10 | 198 | 10/27/1969 | 14 | Georgia |

2005 RECORD: 11-5 | www.buccaneers.com

# TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

NFC SOUTH #2

RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM
CAPACITY: 65,657 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 813-879-2827

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 3 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 4 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| LINEBACKERS | 4 |
| SECONDARY | 4 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 4 |
| MANAGEMENT | 4 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Chris Simms | LE | Greg Spires | P | Josh Bidwell |
| FB | Mike Alstott | LT | Chris Hovan | PR | Mark Jones |
| RB | Carnell Williams | RT | Anthony McFarland | H | Matt Bryant |
| LT | Anthony Davis | RE | Simeon Rice | KR | Michael Pittman |
| LG | Dan Buenning | LLB | Ryan Nece | | |
| C | John Wade | MLB | Shelton Quarles | | |
| RG | Davin Joseph | RLB | Derrick Brooks | | |
| RT | Kenyatta Walker | LCB | Brian Kelly | | |
| TE | Alex Smith | RCB | Ronde Barber | | |
| WR | Joey Galloway | SS | Jermaine Phillips | | |
| WR | Michael Clayton | FS | Will Allen | | |

**ON THE RISE**

**MICHAEL CLAYTON**
wide receiver
Look for him to rebound from the sophomore jinx with a big season.

**FADING FAST**

**SHELTON QUARLES**
middle linebacker
He's been productive for a lot of years, but age is catching up and Barrett Rudd is nipping at his heels.

# Something old, something new

If an aging defense can hold on while a maturing offense catches fire, Gruden's Bucs could repeat their surprising 2005 campaign.

The good news for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers is that their offense is a year older. The bad news? So is their defense.

Coming off a surprising 11-5 season in which they won the NFC South, the Bucs have a team of polar opposites. Their defense, still clinging to some very strong remnants of the Tony Dungy era, is aging. Six defensive starters, including Derrick Brooks, Simeon Rice and Ronde Barber, are past 30 years old.

But the offense is incredibly young, with Carnell Williams, Chris Simms and Michael Clayton serving as the nucleus in a system firmly stamped by Coach Jon Gruden. The combination of youth on offense and experience on defense worked very well last season and it could work even better this year.

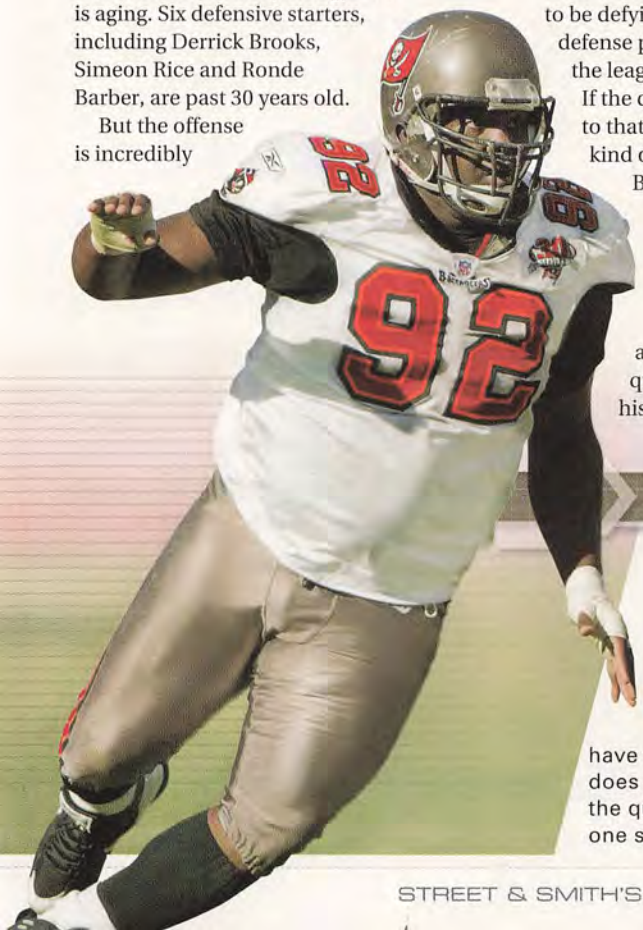
Brooks, the MVP of the Pro Bowl, seems to be defying time, while the rest of the defense played well enough to be No. 1 in the league for total defense last season. If the defense can stay anywhere close to that level and the offense makes the kind of strides it did last season, the Bucs could again challenge for the division title and perhaps go deep into the playoffs.

But the biggest key of all will be the development of Simms, who enters the season as the unquestioned starting quarterback for the first time in his career. Only a year ago, Simms seemed destined to be a career backup. But what he did after taking over for an injured Brian Griese firmly convinced Gruden he had his quarterback for the long haul.

Starting 10 of 11 games, Simms completed 61 percent of his passes while throwing for 10 touchdowns and seven interceptions. Gruden was cautious at first with Simms, but gradually started spreading the offense to take advantage of the quarterback's downfield skills.

Using Simms' strong arm will continue at the start of this season, and his numbers should make last year's statistics look miniscule. Simms already has a strong rapport with top receiver Joey Galloway, who had the best year of his career last season. Galloway caught 83 passes for 1,287 yards and 10 touchdowns. Even at 34, Galloway showed no signs of slowing down, but the Bucs want to give him more help this year.

While Galloway soared in 2005, Clayton hit a horrible sophomore slump. He caught only 32 passes after catching 80 his rookie season. Part of the reason for his struggles was offseason knee surgery. He showed up overweight for training camp and never really got on track. But sources within the Bucs say Clayton was personally embarrassed by last season and has been the



## THE BOOK ON ... ANTHONY McFARLAND

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Nobody's on the hot seat more than McFarland. He's never come close to living up to the expectations they've had for him, and he's starting to get up there in years. I guess part of it is because everyone expected him to be the next Warren Sapp and he's clearly not that. If he's ever going to produce, it has to be now. The fact is he's a nose tackle that they thought could play the under tackle. But he just doesn't have the pass-rush instincts. He had only two sacks last year. Even when he does get back there, he just doesn't have instincts. You see him running past the quarterback all the time. But he does play the run pretty well and that's his one saving grace."

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TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; ROB HOLT / SPORTPICS

## FACT

The Buccaneers finished the regular season with the No. 1 defense in the NFL (277.8 total yards allowed per game). The previous two times they accomplished that feat, they reached the NFC Championship Game (1979) and won the Super Bowl (2002).

## STAT

Carnell Williams rushed for 434 yards in his first three NFL games, the highest total of any player at the start of his career in league history. The Colts' Alan Ameche held the record for 50 years prior, gaining 410 yards in his first three games in 1955.

## LOOK IT UP

Tampa Bay has allowed 2,380 points since 1997, the lowest total in the NFL. It finished in the top 10 all nine years, tying the L.A. Rams (1973-81) for the second-longest streak since 1970. Dallas had a top-10 defense for 10 straight seasons (1970-79).

## 5-YEAR WINS

## BUCCANEERS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. TONY DUNGY (6 YEARS)
   **Record with Buccaneers:** 56-46
2. JON GRUDEN (4 YEARS)
   **Record with Buccaneers:** 38-30
3. SAM WYCHE (4 YEARS)
   **Record with Buccaneers:** 23-41

## THE COUNT

**83-61**
The Buccaneers' record since the start of 1997, tied for fifth best in the NFL.

**11**
The number of games it took wide receiver Joey Galloway to reach the 1,000-yard mark in 2005.

**45.6**
Josh Bidwell's gross punting average last season, which set a franchise record.

## 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 1** vs. Baltimore | SEPT. 10 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 2** @ Atlanta | SEPT. 17 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 3** vs. Carolina | SEPT. 24 | 1:00 SCORE |

★ **MUST-SEE GAME** ★
*This will be the first meeting between Jon Gruden and Keyshawn Johnson, who feuded when they were together in Tampa Bay from 2002-03.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 4** *OPEN DATE* | | |
| **WEEK 5** @ New Orleans | OCT. 8 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 6** vs. Cincinnati | OCT. 15 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 7** vs. Philadelphia | OCT. 22 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 8** @ New York Giants | OCT. 29 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 9** vs. New Orleans | NOV. 5 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 10** @ Carolina | NOV. 13 | 8:30 SCORE |
| **WEEK 11** vs. Washington | NOV. 19 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 12** @ Dallas | NOV. 23 | 4:15 SCORE |
| **WEEK 13** @ Pittsburgh | DEC. 3 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 14** vs. Atlanta | DEC. 10 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 15** @ Chicago | DEC. 17 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 16** @ Cleveland | DEC. 24 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 17** vs. Seattle | DEC. 31 | 1:00 SCORE |

hardest-working player in the organization this offseason.

The Bucs want to get a better balance between Galloway and Clayton while also keeping dependable third receiver Ike Hilliard heavily involved in the offense and grooming third-round pick Maurice Stovall (Notre Dame). But Clayton and Stovall aren't the only young receivers the Bucs are expecting big things from.

Tight end Alex Smith showed promise last season, catching 41 passes as a rookie. Gruden and his coaches believe Smith can be even more productive and become one of the dominant tight ends in the NFL. The Bucs also plan to use more two-tight-end formations, with Anthony Becht as a blocker to free up Smith to run routes.

Having Galloway, Clayton and Smith would seem like plenty of weapons for Simms, but the Bucs don't plan on stopping there. Williams was the 2005 Offensive Rookie of the Year, primarily because he rushed for 1,178 yards. But Williams wasn't much of a factor in the passing game, averaging only 4.1 yards on 20 catches. Gruden believes Williams can be a tremendous every-down back and will try to work him more into the passing game. That will make the offense less predictable than last year, especially when Michael Pittman substituted for Williams—an indicator that the Bucs were going to pass.

Pittman gives the team solid depth and Mike Alstott will be used primarily as a short-yardage and goal-line runner in what is likely to be the last season of his career. But the majority of the carries will go to Williams. He carried the ball 290 times in 14 games last season and the coaching staff believes he can handle 330 to 350 carries, if necessary.

One of the main reasons Williams was so successful as a rookie was the play of

## NFL DRAFT 2006 DRAFT REPORT

The Buccaneers focused in the offseason on upgrading the offensive line, and the trend continued on draft day with the selections of guard **Davin Joseph** and tackle **Jeremy Trueblood** in the first two rounds. Joseph is athletic and tough with the ability to start as a rookie. Trueblood has great size, but gets beat sometimes by playing too tall. **Maurice Stovall** impressed as a senior at Notre Dame and provides Chris Simms with another target outside. **Alan Zemaitis** was a standout in the Big Ten and will fit well in the Tampa style of defense. **Julian Jenkins** is a 'tweener who was most effective as a defensive end at Stanford. **Bruce Gradkowski** isn't flashy, but was always a winner as a MAC quarterback at Toledo. **T.J. Williams** and **Tim Massaquoi** will compete for the backup jobs behind tight end Alex Smith. Their presence will put pressure on Anthony Becht. **Justin Phinisee** is a corner/safety 'tweener who lacks pure speed. **Charles Bennett** is a DE/OLB 'tweener who excels rushing the passer. There are five potential starters in this draft for the Bucs.

GRADE: **B-**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 23 | Joseph, Davin | G | 6-3 | 312 | Oklahoma |
| 2 | 27 | Trueblood, Jeremy | T | 6-8 | 315 | Boston College |
| 3 | 26 | Stovall, Maurice | WR | 6-4 | 218 | Notre Dame |
| 4 | 25 | Zemaitis, Alan | CB | 6-2 | 193 | Penn State |
| 5 | 23 | Jenkins, Julian | DE | 6-4 | 276 | Stanford |
| 6 | 25 | Gradkowski, Bruce | QB | 6-1 | 217 | Toledo |
| 6 | 33 | Williams, T.J. | TE | 6-2 | 270 | N.C. State |
| 7 | 27 | Phinisee, Justin | DB | 5-10 | 197 | Oregon |
| 7 | 33 | Bennett, Charles | LB | 6-3 | 245 | Clemson |
| 7 | 36 | Massaquoi, Tim | TE | 6-2 | 253 | Michigan |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | W | 24-13 | at Minnesota |
| 09/18 | W | 19-3 | Buffalo |
| 09/25 | W | 17-16 | at Green Bay |
| 10/02 | W | 17-13 | Detroit |
| 10/09 | L | 12-14 | at New York Jets |
| 10/16 | W | 27-13 | Miami |
| 10/30 | L | 10-15 | at San Francisco |
| 11/06 | L | 14-34 | Carolina |
| 11/13 | W | 36-35 | Washington |
| 11/20 | W | 30-27 | at Atlanta |
| 11/27 | L | 10-13 | Chicago |
| 12/04 | W | 10-3 | at New Orleans |
| 12/11 | W | 20-10 | at Carolina |
| 12/17 | L | 0-28 | at New England |
| 12/24 | W | 27-24 | Atlanta |
| 01/01 | W | 27-13 | New Orleans |

WON **11**, LOST **5**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Williams | 290 | 1178 | 4.1 | 71t | 6 |
| Pittman | 70 | 436 | 6.2 | 64 | 1 |
| Graham | 28 | 83 | 3.0 | 16 | 0 |
| Alstott | 34 | 80 | 2.4 | 9 | 6 |
| Simms | 19 | 31 | 1.6 | 10 | 0 |
| Griese | 13 | 12 | 0.9 | 7 | 0 |
| Galloway | 2 | 4 | 2.0 | 4 | 0 |
| Clayton | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 2 | 0 |
| **Buccaneers** | **457** | **1826** | **4.0** | **71t** | **13** |
| **Opponents** | **438** | **1515** | **3.5** | **31** | **10** |

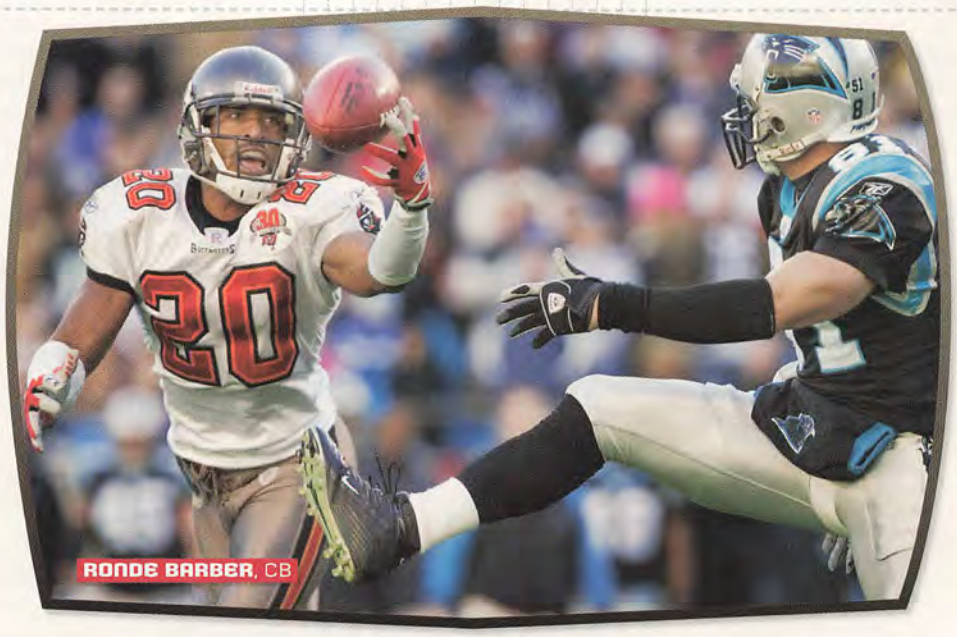
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Galloway | 83 | 1287 | 15.5 | 80t | 10 |
| Smith | 41 | 367 | 9.0 | 24 | 2 |
| Pittman | 36 | 300 | 8.3 | 41t | 1 |
| Hilliard | 35 | 282 | 8.1 | 22 | 1 |
| Clayton | 32 | 372 | 11.6 | 41 | 0 |
| Alstott | 25 | 222 | 8.9 | 24 | 1 |
| Williams | 20 | 81 | 4.1 | 15 | 0 |
| Becht | 16 | 112 | 7.0 | 17 | 0 |
| Cook | 7 | 43 | 6.1 | 11 | 1 |
| Shepherd | 6 | 103 | 17.2 | 46 | 1 |
| Moore | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| Simms | 1 | -3 | -3.0 | -3 | 0 |
| **Buccaneers** | **303** | **3171** | **10.5** | **80t** | **17** |
| **Opponents** | **275** | **3158** | **11.5** | **62** | **15** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Simms | 313 | 191 | 2035 | 10 | 7 |
| Griese | 174 | 112 | 1136 | 7 | 7 |
| **Buccaneers** | **487** | **303** | **3171** | **17** | **14** |
| **Opponents** | **476** | **275** | **3158** | **15** | **17** |

**SACKS**

Rice 14, Spires 4, Brooks 3, White 3, Barber 2, McFarland 2, Nece 2, Wyms 2, Jackson 1, Kelly 1, Quarles 1

**Buccaneers 36, Opponents 41**




BOB DONNAN / US PRESSWIRE

an offensive line that came into the season looking like a major weakness. But the unit developed continuity quickly and should be even better because all five starters started every game last year—the first offensive line in Tampa Bay history to accomplish that feat. The Bucs also used their first two draft picks to beef up this area, selecting Oklahoma guard Davin Joseph in the first round and Boston College tackle Jeremy Trueblood in the second.

Williams gained the bulk of his yards running behind the left side of the offensive line. Left tackle Anthony Davis and left guard Dan Buenning were outstanding as run blockers and should get even better with experience. Buenning might have been the team's most consistent lineman as a rookie. Davis had some rough outings as a pass blocker, but showed promise. Trueblood can play either side and the Bucs will let him challenge Davis and right tackle Kenyatta Walker before deciding where he fits best.

The arrival of Joseph could mean immediate change in the middle of the line. He's likely to replace right guard Sean Mahan, who is undersized. But the Bucs still may have a place for Mahan. They believe he's better suited to center, where he'll likely to compete with veteran John Wade for the starting spot.

The Bucs have had one of the league's best defenses since the Dungy era, and the two constants have been outside linebacker Brooks and coordinator Monte Kiffin. Brooks has slowed a bit over the last two years, but he's still the heart of the defense and remains very productive. Brooks is so intent on finishing his career with the Bucs that he took a massive pay cut in the offseason and wants to add a few more winning seasons to his resume before heading to the Hall of Fame.

Brooks may get his wish, mainly because the rest of the defense remains very talented. Rice is the key up front. He's had at least 11 sacks or more in each of his five seasons with the Bucs and there's no reason to think that won't continue. But the Bucs would like to get more production out of the rest of the line. Greg Spires, the other starting end, slumped last year and could be challenged by Dewayne White for the starting job.

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Buccaneers)*

"[Coach] Jon Gruden and [General Manager] Bruce Allen have done a good job learning from their past mistakes. You don't see them giving out the huge contracts to the Todd Steussie-types. Instead, they're re-signing their own guys and bringing in cheap free agents like Chris Hovan and Juran Bolden and getting production out of them. ...

"Cadillac Williams already is a great runner. If they can get him to be more of a factor in the passing game, he can be one of the best backs in the league. ...

"Monte Kiffin is a great defensive coordinator, but I'm curious to see how he does without Rod Marinelli running the defensive line. I think Marinelli was a quiet, but very big part of their success up front for a very long time. ...

"Chris Simms has a chance to be a very good quarterback, but the one thing I'd be scared of if I were them is depth. If anything happens to him, they've got to play Luke McCown or Tim Rattay, and I don't think they can win many games with either of them."

Defensive tackle Chris Hovan seemed to have flamed out in Minnesota two years ago, but found new life with the Bucs last year. He'll again be paired with Anthony McFarland in the middle. McFarland has been adequate, but never has lived up to the expectations when he was taken in the first round in 1999.

Still, the Bucs believe McFarland and Hovan can keep blockers occupied to free up Brooks and the linebackers to make most of the tackles. Middle linebacker Shelton Quarles started to show his age last year and the Bucs have Barrett Rudd ready to take over if Quarles continues to slow. Ryan Nece was solid on the strongside, but the Bucs brought in Jamie Winborn to challenge him for the starting job.

The key to Tampa Bay's secondary is at cornerback, where Barber and Brian Kelly form one of the league's best tandems. Each is a perfect fit in Tampa Bay's Cover 2 scheme and Barber is coming off another Pro Bowl season. Neither has great size, but Juran Bolden helps make up for that, as the nickel back seems to have rejuvenated his career after struggling in Jacksonville.

The strong corners help compensate for what may be the defense's weakest link—safety. Strong safety Jermaine Phillips hasn't lived up to the precedent set by John Lynch, and free safety Dexter Jackson went to the Bengals in free agency. Will Allen played well when Jackson was injured last year and probably will take over at free safety. Fourth-round draft pick Alan Zemaitis was an effective cornerback at Penn State and could challenge Bolden for playing time. But Zemaitis also has the size to play safety and could be moved there to challenge Phillips and Allen.

The special teams went from a major liability a couple years ago to a huge strength last season. That's largely a credit to punter Josh Bidwell, a 2005 Pro Bowl pick, and kicker Matt Bryant. Mark Jones is a solid punt returner and the Bucs plan to let Pittman return kickoffs this season.

Tampa Bay may have overachieved last season, as Gruden did an outstanding coaching job. The expectations have been raised, but this team could meet or exceed them if the offense can continue to grow and the defense can fight off the aging process.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Torrin Tucker**, OT (DAL)
- **Toniu Fonoti**, OG (MIN)
- **Jamie Winborn**, LB (JAX)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Dexter Jackson**, DB (CIN)
- **Jameel Cook**, RB (HOU)
- **Brian Griese**, QB (CHI)
- **Will Heller**, TE (SEA)
- **Billy Cundiff**, K (GB)
- **Damian Gregory**, DT (DET)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 294.8 | 23 |
| Rushing | 114.1 | 14 |
| Passing | 180.6 | 25 |
| Scoring | 300 | 20 |
| Punt Returns | 9.6 | 6 |
| Kick Returns | 19.5 | 30 |
| Red Zone TD % | 50.0 | 15t |
| Total Defense | 277.8 | 1 |
| Against Rush | 94.7 | 6 |
| Against Pass | 183.1 | 6 |
| Points Allowed | 274 | 8 |
| Interceptions | 17 | 10t |
| Sacks | 36 | 18t |
| Turnover Diff. | +7 | 9t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 268 | 83 | 161 | 24 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 40 | 182 | 20 | 14 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | 17 | 0 | 3 |

## BUCCANEERS ROSTER

**Jon Gruden, head coach**; **Joe Barry**, linebackers; **Richard Bisaccia**, special teams coord.; **Greg Burns**, def. backs; **Jethro Franklin**, def. line; **Jay Gruden**, off. asst.; **Paul Hackett**, quarterbacks; **Monte Kiffin**, def. coord.; **Aaron Kromer**, asst. off. line; **Jimmy Lake**, asst. def. backs; **Richard Mann**, wide receivers; **Ron Middleton**, tight ends/asst. special teams; **Bill Muir**, off. coord./off. line; **Art Valero**, asst. head coach/running backs

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | McCown, Luke | QB | 6-3 | 212 | 07/12/1981 | 1 | Louisiana Tech |
| 13 | Rattay, Tim | QB | 6-0 | 215 | 03/15/1977 | 6 | Louisiana Tech |
| 2 | Simms, Chris | QB | 6-4 | 220 | 08/29/1980 | 2 | Texas |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| | Bogle, Phil | T | 6-2 | 332 | 09/27/1979 | 1 | New Haven |
| 72 | Buenning, Dan | G | 6-4 | 320 | 10/26/1981 | 1 | Wisconsin |
| 62 | Clinkscale, Jonathan | G | 6-3 | 304 | 04/17/1982 | 0 | Wisconsin |
| 61 | Colmer, Chris | T | 6-5 | 310 | 11/21/1980 | 0 | N.C. State |
| 69 | Davis, Anthony | T | 6-4 | 329 | 03/27/1980 | 2 | Virginia Tech |
| 78 | Fonoti, Toniu | G | 6-4 | 350 | 11/26/1981 | 3 | Nebraska |
| 74 | Jackson, Scott | C | 6-4 | 300 | 09/19/1979 | 0 | Brigham Young |
| 79 | Mahan, Sean | G | 6-3 | 301 | 05/28/1980 | 3 | Notre Dame |
| 60 | Nerys, Jason | G | 6-2 | 310 | 06/06/1981 | 0 | Delaware |
| 73 | Rodgers, Stefan | T | 6-4 | 305 | 11/03/1981 | 0 | Lambuth |
| 77 | Terry, Jeb | G | 6-5 | 311 | 04/10/1981 | 2 | North Carolina |
| 68 | Tucker, Torrin | T | 6-6 | 315 | 12/25/1979 | 3 | Southern Miss |
| 76 | Wade, John | C | 6-5 | 299 | 01/25/1975 | 8 | Marshall |
| 67 | Walker, Kenyatta | T | 6-5 | 302 | 02/01/1979 | 5 | Florida |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 40 | Alstott, Mike | RB | 6-1 | 248 | 12/21/1973 | 10 | Purdue |
| 41 | Davis, Carey | RB | 5-10 | 225 | 03/27/1981 | 1 | Illinois |
| 37 | Douglas, Robert | RB | 6-2 | 240 | 07/25/1982 | 0 | Memphis |
| 34 | Graham, Earnest | RB | 5-9 | 215 | 01/15/1980 | 2 | Florida |
| 32 | Pittman, Michael | RB | 6-0 | 228 | 08/14/1975 | 8 | Fresno State |
| 44 | Razzano, Rick | RB | 6-0 | 250 | 01/28/1981 | 0 | Mississippi |
| 33 | Sowell, Jerald | RB | 6-0 | 237 | 01/21/1974 | 9 | Tulane |
| 22 | Watson, Derek | RB | 6-0 | 223 | 05/01/1981 | 0 | S.C. State |
| 24 | Williams, Carnell | RB | 5-11 | 217 | 04/21/1982 | 1 | Auburn |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 49 | Anelli, Mark | TE | 6-3 | 265 | 06/05/1979 | 1 | Wisconsin |
| 88 | Becht, Anthony | TE | 6-5 | 272 | 08/08/1977 | 6 | West Virginia |
| 16 | Brackins, Larry | WR | 6-4 | 205 | 11/05/1982 | 0 | Pearl River CC |
| | Carter, Jonathan | WR | 6-0 | 180 | 03/20/1979 | 4 | Troy |
| 80 | Clayton, Michael | WR | 6-3 | 215 | 10/13/1982 | 2 | LSU |
| 84 | Galloway, Joey | WR | 5-11 | 197 | 11/20/1971 | 11 | Ohio State |
| 18 | Gessner, Chas | WR | 6-4 | 215 | 08/17/1981 | 0 | Brown |
| 89 | Jones, Mark | WR | 5-9 | 185 | 11/03/1980 | 2 | Tennessee |
| 83 | Moore, Dave | TE | 6-2 | 250 | 11/11/1969 | 14 | Pittsburgh |
| 87 | Russell, J.R. | WR | 6-3 | 206 | 12/05/1981 | 0 | Louisville |
| 86 | Shepherd, Edell | WR | 6-1 | 175 | 05/18/1980 | 2 | San Jose State |
| 81 | Smith, Alex | TE | 6-4 | 258 | 05/22/1982 | 1 | Stanford |
| 82 | Warren, Paris | WR | 6-0 | 213 | 09/06/1982 | 0 | Utah |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 91 | Bradley, Jon | DT | 6-0 | 301 | 01/13/1981 | 2 | Arkansas State |
| 64 | Bryant, Anthony | DT | 6-3 | 337 | 11/06/1981 | 1 | Alabama |
| 95 | Hovan, Chris | DT | 6-2 | 298 | 05/12/1978 | 6 | Boston College |
| 92 | McFarland, Anthony | DT | 6-0 | 300 | 12/18/1977 | 7 | LSU |
| 66 | McGruder, Lynn | DT | 6-3 | 302 | 02/13/1982 | 0 | Oklahoma |
| 97 | Rice, Simeon | DE | 6-5 | 268 | 02/24/1974 | 10 | Illinois |
| 94 | Spires, Greg | DE | 6-1 | 265 | 08/12/1974 | 8 | Florida State |
| 90 | White, Dewayne | DE | 6-2 | 273 | 10/19/1979 | 3 | Louisville |
| 98 | Williams, Andrew | DE | 6-2 | 263 | 04/18/1979 | 2 | Miami (FL) |
| | Wright, Keith | DT | 6-2 | 275 | 06/08/1980 | 0 | Missouri |
| 96 | Wyms, Ellis | DE | 6-3 | 290 | 04/12/1979 | 5 | Mississippi State |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 46 | Adams, Blue | CB | 5-10 | 184 | 10/15/1979 | 2 | Cincinnati |
| 26 | Allen, Will | S | 6-1 | 200 | 06/17/1982 | 2 | Ohio State |
| 20 | Barber, Ronde | CB | 5-10 | 184 | 04/07/1975 | 9 | Virginia |
| 21 | Bolden, Juran | CB | 6-3 | 210 | 06/27/1974 | 8 | Miss. Delta CC |
| 38 | Cargile, Steve | S | 6-1 | 201 | 06/02/1982 | 0 | Columbia |
| 27 | Cox, Torrie | CB | 5-9 | 181 | 10/29/1980 | 2 | Pittsburgh |
| 30 | Ellick, Dwight | CB | 5-11 | 197 | 09/30/1982 | 0 | Notre Dame |
| 25 | Kelly, Brian | CB | 5-11 | 193 | 01/14/1976 | 8 | USC |
| 28 | Nicholson, Donte | S | 6-1 | 216 | 12/18/1981 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| 31 | Patrick, James | CB | 5-10 | 172 | 06/07/1982 | 0 | Stillman |
| 39 | Pearson, Kalvin | CB | 5-10 | 190 | 10/22/1978 | 2 | Grambling State |
| 23 | Phillips, Jermaine | S | 6-1 | 214 | 03/27/1979 | 4 | Georgia |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 55 | Brooks, Derrick | LB | 6-0 | 235 | 04/18/1973 | 11 | Florida State |
| 52 | Cash, Antoine | LB | 6-1 | 223 | 03/05/1982 | 1 | Southern Miss |
| 58 | Cooper, Marquis | LB | 6-3 | 213 | 03/11/1982 | 2 | Washington |
| 54 | Mallard, Wesly | LB | 6-1 | 230 | 11/21/1978 | 4 | Oregon |
| 56 | Nece, Ryan | LB | 6-3 | 224 | 02/24/1979 | 4 | UCLA |
| 53 | Quarles, Shelton | LB | 6-1 | 225 | 09/11/1971 | 9 | Vanderbilt |
| 51 | Ruud, Barrett | LB | 6-0 | 241 | 05/20/1983 | 1 | Nebraska |
| 50 | Winborn, Jamie | LB | 5-11 | 242 | 05/14/1979 | 5 | Vanderbilt |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 9 | Bidwell, Josh | P | 6-3 | 220 | 03/13/1976 | 6 | Oregon |
| 3 | Bryant, Matt | K | 5-9 | 200 | 05/29/1975 | 4 | Baylor |

COURTESY NFL

2005 RECORD: 8-8 | www.atlantafalcons.com

# ATLANTA FALCONS

NFC SOUTH #3

GEORGIA DOME
CAPACITY: 71,149 | TURF: ARTIFICIAL | TICKETS: 404-223-8000

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 3 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 4 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| LINEBACKERS | 4 |
| SECONDARY | 3 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 5 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Michael Vick | LE | Patrick Kerney | P | Michael Koenen |
| FB | Justin Griffith | LT | Rod Coleman | PR | Allen Rossum |
| RB | Warrick Dunn | RT | Chad Lavalais | H | Ryan Rossner |
| LT | Wayne Gandy | RE | John Abraham | KR | Allen Rossum |
| LG | Matt Lehr | LLB | Michael Boley | | |
| C | Todd McClure | MLB | Ed Hartwell | | |
| RG | Kynan Forney | RLB | Keith Brooking | | |
| RT | Todd Weiner | LCB | DeAngelo Hall | | |
| TE | Alge Crumpler | RCB | Jason Webster | | |
| WR | Roddy White | SS | Lawyer Milloy | | |
| WR | Michael Jenkins | FS | Chris Crocker | | |

**ON THE RISE**

**MICHAEL JENKINS**
wide receiver
He started to come on last season; needs to be go-to receiver this year.

**FADING FAST**

**WAYNE GANDY**
left tackle
The new left tackle is 35; age is bound to catch up despite the fact that he's not protecting Vick's blind side.

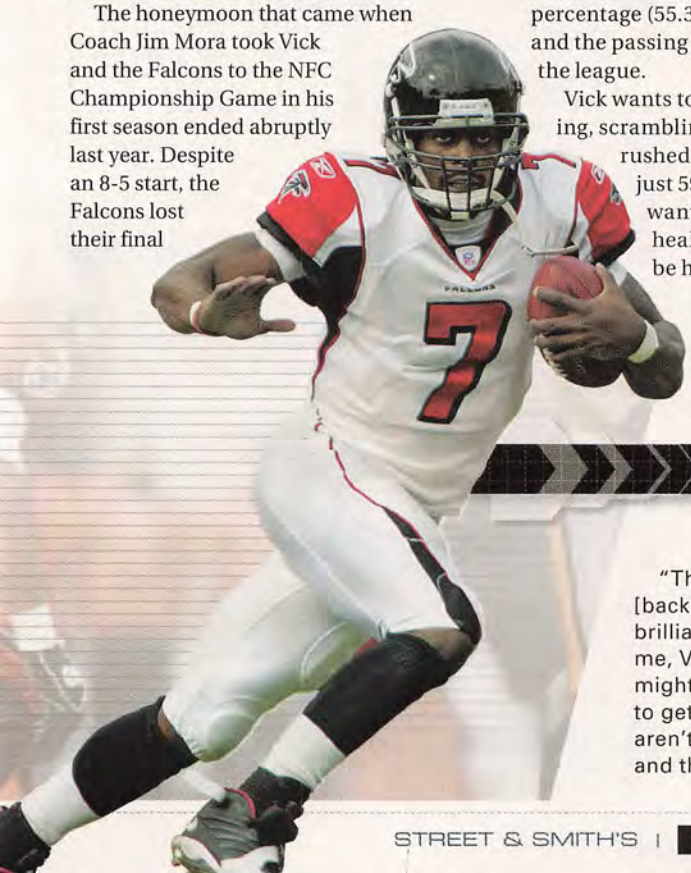
# Finding harmony

With the right blend of dropback/scramble, there's hope that Vick and Mora can make beautiful music together this year in A-town.

When you talk about Michael Vick, you always start with his feet.

Seemingly on the verge of greatness, Vick took a big step back last year. So did the Atlanta Falcons, and both parties appear at a crossroads that could turn out to be a make-or-break season for the team, its coach and its quarterback.

The honeymoon that came when Coach Jim Mora took Vick and the Falcons to the NFC Championship Game in his first season ended abruptly last year. Despite an 8-5 start, the Falcons lost their final three games, finishing at .500 and missing the playoffs.



Emotions took over as the season crumbled. Mora had several outbursts and Vick publicly questioned the offensive system. The Falcons tried to keep Vick in the pocket more often last season, but the results weren't impressive. His completion percentage (55.3) was underwhelming and the passing offense ranked 27th in the league.

Vick wants to return to his freewheeling, scrambling style of 2004, when he rushed for 902 yards. He ran for just 597 yards last year. Mora wants to keep his quarterback healthy, but also wants him to be happy.

For Vick and the Falcons to find success, they're going to have to find a balance. They need more out of Vick's arm and letting him use his feet to set up the passing game may be the answer. Vick is at his best when he's creating on the run, not when he's throwing dump passes and quick outs.

Harmony is what's needed and a fast start could reverse the negative momentum from the end of last year. The Falcons will try to get more out of Vick by getting more from the players around him. The biggest need for improvement is at wide receiver, where the Falcons used a first-round pick on Michael Jenkins in 2004 and another on Roddy White in 2005.

Jenkins and White haven't come close to expectations, combining for just 65 catches last year. That's part of the reason why Vick struggled last season. All too often his only dependable receivers were veteran Brian Finneran and tight end Alge Crumpler.

The Falcons want Finneran to be used as the third receiver this season and that means Jenkins and White will have to step up. Finneran is a solid possession receiver, but the Falcons want to combine Vick's strong arm with the speed of Jenkins and White to develop a more effective downfield-passing game.

Crumpler, who had 65 catches last season, needs to be a big part of that, too.

## THE BOOK ON ... MICHAEL VICK

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"The smartest thing they [Atlanta] did in the offseason was to keep [backup quarterback] Matt Schaub around. That could turn out to be a brilliant move because the whole thing with Vick could blow up. Believe me, Vick is a great athlete and all that and you never know when the light might go on. But I just don't think it will. I just don't think Vick's ever going to get any better because he doesn't want to learn. Plus, when things aren't going his way and he gets knocked around a little, he gets rattled and the game's over."

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TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; MICHAEL MONTES

**FACT**

In all three of his full seasons (2002, 2004 and 2005), quarterback Michael Vick has led the NFL in rushing yards per carry. His 5.85 average in 2005 was tops in the league despite being a career low.

**STAT**

The Falcons led the NFL in kickoff-return coverage last year, holding opponents to 19.3 yards per return.

**LOOK IT UP**

For the second straight season, Atlanta was the NFL's best rushing team with 159.1 yards per game. The Falcons averaged 167.0 yards per game during the 2004 season.

## 5-YEAR WINS

## FALCONS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. DAN REEVES (7 YEARS)
   **Record with Falcons:** 52-61-1
2. LEEMAN BENNETT (6 YEARS)
   **Record with Falcons:** 47-44
3. JERRY GLANVILLE (4 YEARS)
   **Record with Falcons:** 28-38

## THE COUNT

**4**
Two-point conversions for the Falcons last year, the most in the NFL.

**73**
First downs for Warrick Dunn, fourth best in the NFC last season.

**177**
Interception yards by DeAngelo Hall, the NFL's third-highest mark in 2005.

His presence over the middle can take pressure off the young wide receivers. Those receivers should also benefit from a rushing offense that ranked No. 1 in the NFL last season. Tailback Warrick Dunn ran for a career-best 1,416 yards while averaging 5.1 yards per carry.

Dunn also carried the ball a career-high 280 times. The Falcons would like to reduce that number a bit because Dunn is only 5-foot-9 and 180 pounds, and also 31 years old. Aside from Vick, the Falcons don't have many other rushing options. Fullback Justin Griffith is an effective lead blocker, but not much of a running threat.

The Falcons would like to get more production out of Dunn's backup, T.J. Duckett. A first-round pick in 2002, Duckett has been a disappointment. He averaged only 3.1 yards per carry last year, but was effective as a goal-line runner, scoring eight touchdowns. The Falcons will give Duckett one more chance, but it was obvious they were seeking other options when they used a third-round pick this year on Mississippi State's Jerious Norwood.

Dunn's big season in 2005 was largely a result of strong play by an offensive line that doesn't have any individual stars. The Falcons like small, athletic linemen and since that system worked well last year, Atlanta will

JIMMY CRIBB / WIRE IMAGE.COM

## DRAFT REPORT

The Falcons dealt their first-round draft choice to the Jets for defensive end John Abraham. With their first pick, they selected defensive back **Jimmy Williams**. The former Virginia Tech standout has top-10 athletic ability, but character and coachability dropped him into the second round. **Jerious Norwood** was very productive for Mississippi State and will be groomed to replace Warrick Dunn. **Quinn Ojinnaka** shows some athletic ability, but will need time to develop. Smallish **Adam Jennings** excels returning kicks. **D.J. Shockley** was a one-year starter at Georgia who could surprise down the road. The first day was solid, but outside of Shockley, the second day did little to excite.

GRADE: **C+**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 5 | Williams, Jimmy | CB | 6-2 | 214 | Virginia Tech |
| 3 | 15 | Norwood, Jerious | RB | 6-0 | 203 | Mississippi State |
| 5 | 6 | Ojinnaka, Quinn | T | 6-5 | 308 | Syracuse |
| 6 | 15 | Jennings, Adam | WR | 5-9 | 181 | Fresno State |
| 7 | 15 | Shockley, D.J. | QB | 6-1 | 213 | Georgia |

### HE SAID IT:

**I want to show the other 31 teams and the other eight defensive backs who went before me [what they missed], so that's some motivation right there to prove to them why I was a unanimous All-American.**

*—Falcons second-round pick Jimmy Williams on proving he was the best cornerback in the draft*

## 2006 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** @ Carolina
SEPT. 10 | 1:00
★ MUST-SEE GAME ★
*No team needs a faster start than Atlanta, which opens the season with games against its three NFC South rivals.*
SCORE

**WEEK 2** vs. Tampa Bay
SEPT. 17 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 3** @ New Orleans
SEPT. 25 | 8:30
SCORE

**WEEK 4** vs. Arizona
OCT. 1 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 5** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 6** vs. New York Giants
OCT. 15 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 7** vs. Pittsburgh
OCT. 22 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 8** @ Cincinnati
OCT. 29 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 9** @ Detroit
NOV. 5 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 10** vs. Cleveland
NOV. 12 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 11** @ Baltimore
NOV. 19 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 12** vs. New Orleans
NOV. 26 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 13** @ Washington
DEC. 3 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 14** @ Tampa Bay
DEC. 10 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 15** vs. Dallas
DEC. 16 | 8:00
SCORE

**WEEK 16** vs. Carolina
DEC. 24 | 1:00
SCORE

**WEEK 17** @ Philadelphia
DEC. 31 | 1:00
SCORE

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/12 | W | 14-10 | Philadelphia |
| 09/18 | L | 18-21 | at Seattle |
| 09/25 | W | 24-16 | at Buffalo |
| 10/02 | W | 30-10 | Minnesota |
| 10/09 | L | 28-31 | New England |
| 10/16 | W | 34-31 | at New Orleans |
| 10/24 | W | 27-14 | New York Jets |
| 11/06 | W | 17-10 | at Miami |
| 11/13 | L | 25-33 | Green Bay |
| 11/20 | L | 27-30 | Tampa Bay |
| 11/24 | W | 27-7 | at Detroit |
| 12/04 | L | 6-24 | at Carolina |
| 12/12 | W | 36-17 | New Orleans |
| 12/18 | L | 3-16 | at Chicago |
| 12/24 | L | 24-27 | at Tampa Bay |
| 01/01 | L | 11-44 | Carolina |

WON 8, LOST 8

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dunn | 280 | 1416 | 5.1 | 65 | 3 |
| Vick | 102 | 597 | 5.9 | 32 | 6 |
| Duckett | 121 | 380 | 3.1 | 25 | 8 |
| Schaub | 9 | 76 | 8.4 | 23 | 0 |
| Griffith | 15 | 65 | 4.3 | 19 | 0 |
| R. White | 4 | 12 | 3.0 | 16 | 0 |
| **Falcons** | **531** | **2546** | **4.8** | **65** | **17** |
| **Opponents** | **438** | **2063** | **4.7** | **70t** | **18** |

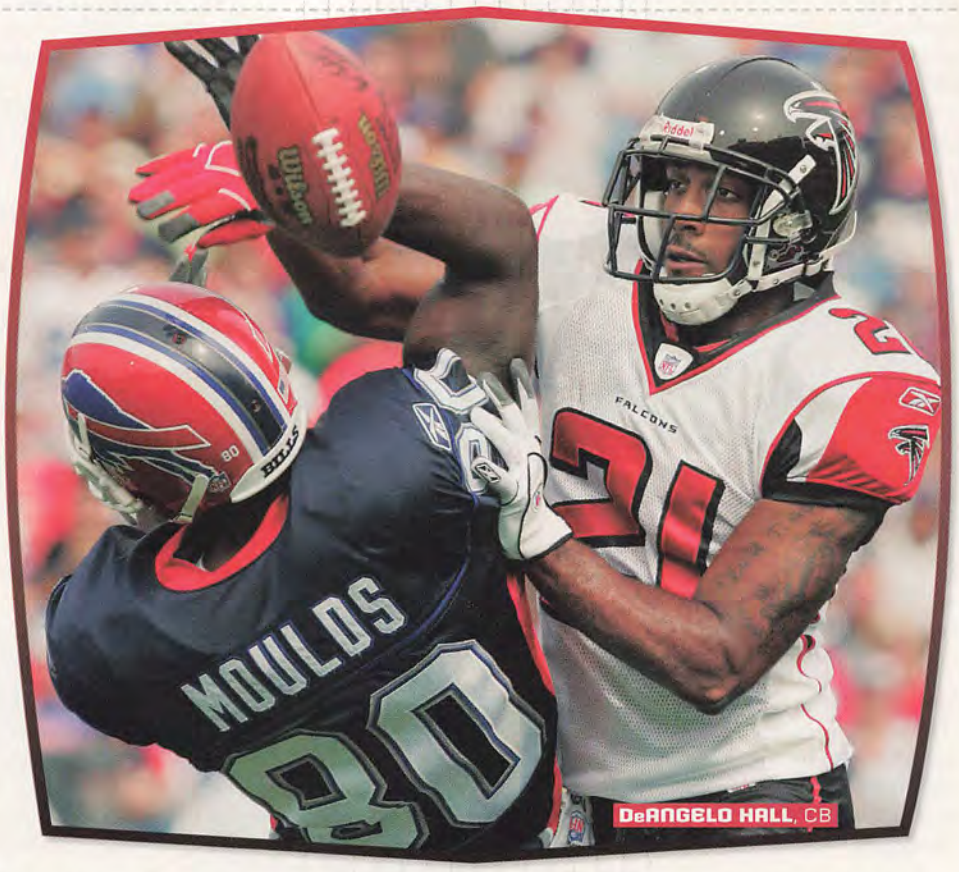
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Crumpler | 65 | 877 | 13.5 | 48 | 5 |
| Finneran | 50 | 611 | 12.2 | 53 | 2 |
| Jenkins | 36 | 508 | 14.1 | 58 | 3 |
| Dunn | 29 | 220 | 7.6 | 24 | 1 |
| R. White | 29 | 446 | 15.4 | 54t | 3 |
| Griffith | 21 | 111 | 5.3 | 17 | 3 |
| Duckett | 6 | 63 | 10.5 | 19 | 0 |
| Blakley | 4 | 30 | 7.5 | 10 | 1 |
| McCrary | 3 | 12 | 4.0 | 11 | 0 |
| D. White | 2 | 25 | 12.5 | 14t | 1 |
| Pathon | 1 | 18 | 18.0 | 18 | 0 |
| Vick | 1 | -14 | -14.0 | -14 | 0 |
| **Falcons** | **247** | **2907** | **11.8** | **58** | **19** |
| **Opponents** | **320** | **3394** | **10.6** | **55t** | **18** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vick | 387 | 214 | 2412 | 15 | 13 |
| Schaub | 64 | 33 | 495 | 4 | 0 |
| **Falcons** | **451** | **247** | **2907** | **19** | **13** |
| **Opponents** | **526** | **320** | **3394** | **18** | **16** |

**SACKS**

Coleman 10.5, Kerney 6.5, Brooking 3.5, Lake 3.5, Smith 3, D. Williams 3, Lavalais 2.5, Shropshire 2, Davis 1, Scott 1, Babineaux 0.5

**Falcons 37, Opponents 39**




ROBERT SKEOCH / WIRE IMAGE.COM

rely on continuity this season. The only major change on the offensive line is the arrival of veteran left tackle Wayne Gandy from New Orleans. Gandy is 35, but has been one of the league's most durable offensive linemen and should have no trouble fitting in with right tackle Todd Weiner, right guard Kynan Forney, center Todd McClure and left guard Matt Lehr. Atlanta doesn't have a starter on its offensive line with less than five years of experience.

Although most of the blame for last season's collapse fell on Vick and the offense, the defense might have been more at fault. The Falcons ranked 22nd in total defense and 26th against the run. Injuries at linebacker and in the secondary played roles in their struggles, but the Falcons made some major moves in the offseason to try to correct last year's problems.

The biggest move was a trade with the New York Jets for defensive end John Abraham. He'll play on the right side and should provide lots of help for a pass rush that fell off dramatically last season. Patrick Kerney, the starter at left end who had 13 sacks in 2004, saw his production drop last year (6.5 sacks).

With Abraham playing next to defensive tackle Rod Coleman (10.5 sacks last year), Kerney should draw less blocking and have better shots at the quarterback. The Falcons also believe they can upgrade the middle of the defense if second-year pro Jonathan Babineaux is ready to take over for Chad Lavalais. A productive Babineaux should help the run defense.

But the biggest improvement against the running game needs to come from the linebackers. The Falcons thought they

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Falcons)*

"This team is just such a wild card. They've got a lot of wonderful talent with [Michael] Vick, Alge Crumpler and DeAngelo Hall. But things got weird at the end of last season and [Coach] Jim Mora was looking like a loose cannon. You've got guys like Vick and Hall that maybe aren't real mature, but carry a lot of weight in that locker room. They've got some guys that will point fingers if things don't go well. If they get off to a bad start and those guys lose faith in Mora, this could turn into a Bill Callahan situation. ...

"Getting John Abraham seems like a nice move. But, like everything else with this team, it could go either way. The guy's a great talent, but you have to wonder how motivated he's going to be after getting his big payday."

had improved in that area before last season when they brought in free agents Edgerton Hartwell and Ike Reese. However, Hartwell played in only five games before suffering a season-ending Achilles injury and Reese showed signs of aging.

Hartwell is expected to return this season and that should give the Falcons a run-stopper at middle linebacker. It also should take pressure off of Keith Brooking, who was asked to move around to fill holes last season. The Falcons want to keep Brooking at weakside linebacker, where he can use his speed to make plays.

Michael Boley was forced to play a lot as a rookie and showed promise, recording 63 tackles. He's likely to start ahead of Reese on the strongside. The secondary could be a strength of the team because third-year pro DeAngelo Hall is emerging as a shutdown corner. He had six interceptions last year and often draws the opponent's top receiver.

Jason Webster, the other starting cornerback, is undersized at 5-9 and that's why the Falcons used a second-round pick on Virginia Tech's Jimmy Williams. Although Webster may open the season as the starter, the Falcons eventually would like to use him as the nickel back and Williams as a starter.

Safety was a major problem last year, which is why the Falcons brought in 10-year veteran Lawyer Milloy from Buffalo and traded with Cleveland for Chris Crocker. Milloy will start on the strongside and Crocker will be the free safety.

There will be some transition on special teams, where the Falcons are looking for a new kicker. Punter Michael Koenen was effective, averaging 42.3 yards per punt as a rookie. Veteran return man Allen Rossum is dependable on punts and kickoffs, but the Falcons would like to have more explosiveness.

Mora was given a contract extension after last season, but that doesn't mean he won't be on the hot seat if the Falcons start slowly. Falcons owner Arthur Blank has spent freely on players and facilities and wants the Falcons to win quickly. Plenty of good parts are in place and no part is bigger than Vick. For Mora to succeed, he's going to have to find a way to get more out of his enigmatic quarterback.

FINAL GRADE: 80 STOCK UP REPORT

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Lawyer Milloy**, DB (BUF)
- **John Abraham**, DE (trade, NYJ)
- **Chris Crocker**, DB (trade, CLE)
- **Wayne Gandy**, OT (trade, NO)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Kevin Shaffer**, OT (CLE)
- **Kevin McCadam**, DB (CAR)
- **Barry Stokes**, OT (DET)
- **Bryan Scott**, DB (trade, NO)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 326.6 | 12 |
| Rushing | 159.1 | 1 |
| Passing | 167.4 | 27 |
| Scoring | 351 | 14 |
| Punt Returns | 8.4 | 14t |
| Kick Returns | 21.2 | 24 |
| Red Zone TD % | 57.4 | 10 |
| Total Defense | 325.0 | 22 |
| Against Rush | 128.9 | 26 |
| Against Pass | 196.1 | 14 |
| Points Allowed | 341 | 18 |
| Interceptions | 16 | 14t |
| Sacks | 37 | 14t |
| Turnover Diff. | 0 | 17 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 313 | 139 | 149 | 25 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | PG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 54 | 278 | 31 | 19 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17 | 19 | 0 | 2 |

## FALCONS ROSTER

**Jim Mora, head coach**; **Greg Knapp**, off. coord.; **Ed Donatell**, def. coord.; **Joe DeCamillis**, special teams coord.; **Emmitt Thomas**, senior def. asst./secondary; **Clancy Barone**, tight ends; **Chris Beake**, linebackers; **Tom Cable**, off. line; **Chris Dalman**, off. asst.; **Steve Hoffman**, asst. special teams; **Bill Johnson**, def. line; **Joe Lombardi**, def. asst.; **Bill Musgrave**, quarterbacks; **Brett Maxie**, def. backs; **Robert Prince**, off. asst.; **George Stewart**, wide receivers; **Ollie Wilson**, running backs

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Randall, Bryan | QB | 6-0 | 222 | 08/16/1983 | 0 | Virginia Tech |
| 8 | Schaub, Matt | QB | 6-5 | 237 | 06/25/1981 | 2 | Virginia |
| 7 | Vick, Michael | QB | 6-0 | 215 | 06/26/1980 | 5 | Virginia Tech |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 63 | Cecil, Toby | C | 6-4 | 290 | 12/26/1980 | 0 | Texas Tech |
| 67 | Clabo, Tyson | G | 6-6 | 314 | 10/17/1981 | 0 | Wake Forest |
| 69 | Claxton, Ben | G | 6-2 | 301 | 07/30/1980 | 1 | Mississippi |
| 79 | Draper, Shawn | T | 6-3 | 310 | 04/05/1979 | 0 | Alabama |
| 65 | Forney, Kynan | G | 6-3 | 307 | 09/08/1978 | 5 | Hawaii |
| 72 | Gandy, Wayne | T | 6-4 | 315 | 02/10/1971 | 12 | Auburn |
| 77 | Jones, Garrick | T | 6-5 | 323 | 12/02/1978 | 0 | Arkansas State |
| 66 | King, Austin | C | 6-5 | 303 | 04/11/1981 | 2 | Northwestern |
| 61 | Lehr, Matt | G | 6-2 | 304 | 04/25/1979 | 5 | Virginia Tech |
| 62 | McClure, Todd | C | 6-1 | 286 | 02/16/1977 | 6 | LSU |
| 70 | Omiyale, Frank | T | 6-4 | 310 | 11/23/1982 | 0 | Tennessee Tech |
| 74 | Weiner, Todd | T | 6-4 | 297 | 09/16/1975 | 8 | Kansas State |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 34 | Cobb, DeAndra | RB | 5-10 | 196 | 05/18/1981 | 1 | Michigan State |
| 45 | Duckett, T.J. | RB | 6-0 | 254 | 02/17/1981 | 4 | Michigan State |
| 41 | Dudley, Kevin | RB | 6-1 | 237 | 01/02/1982 | 1 | Michigan |
| 28 | Dunn, Warrick | RB | 5-9 | 180 | 01/05/1975 | 9 | Florida State |
| 33 | Griffith, Justin | RB | 5-11 | 232 | 04/13/1981 | 3 | Mississippi State |
| 44 | McCrary, Fred | RB | 6-0 | 247 | 09/19/1972 | 9 | Mississippi State |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 80 | Beverly, Eric | TE | 6-3 | 300 | 03/28/1974 | 8 | Miami (OH) |
| 85 | Blakley, Dwayne | TE | 6-4 | 257 | 08/10/1979 | 2 | Missouri |
| 87 | Bonner, Cedric | WR | 5-11 | 181 | 12/14/1978 | 0 | Tx. A&M-Commerce |
| 83 | Crumpler, Alge | TE | 6-2 | 262 | 12/23/1977 | 5 | North Carolina |
| 86 | Finneran, Brian | WR | 6-5 | 210 | 01/31/1976 | 7 | Villanova |
| 12 | Jenkins, Michael | WR | 6-4 | 217 | 06/18/1982 | 2 | Ohio State |
| 48 | Rackley, Derek | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 07/18/1977 | 6 | Minnesota |
| 49 | Randall, Jason | TE | 6-5 | 269 | 12/26/1982 | 0 | Michigan State |
| 43 | Redd, Robert | WR | 5-10 | 200 | 09/01/1980 | 0 | Bowling Green |
| 84 | White, Roddy | WR | 6-0 | 208 | 11/02/1981 | 1 | UAB |
| 17 | Youngblood, Kevin | WR | 6-3 | 215 | 11/22/1980 | 0 | Clemson |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 55 | Abraham, John | DE | 6-4 | 258 | 05/06/1978 | 6 | South Carolina |
| 95 | Babineaux, Jonathan | DT | 6-2 | 286 | 10/12/1981 | 1 | Iowa |
| 75 | Coleman, Rod | DT | 6-2 | 285 | 08/16/1976 | 7 | East Carolina |
| 92 | Davis, Chauncey | DE | 6-2 | 272 | 01/27/1983 | 1 | Florida State |
| 99 | Jackson, Jonathan | DE | 6-3 | 250 | 10/17/1982 | 0 | Oklahoma |
| 97 | Kerney, Patrick | DE | 6-5 | 273 | 12/30/1976 | 7 | Virginia |
| 96 | Lake, Antwan | DT | 6-4 | 308 | 07/10/1979 | 3 | West Virginia |
| 93 | Lavalais, Chad | DT | 6-1 | 293 | 04/15/1979 | 2 | LSU |
| 94 | Savage, Josh | DE | 6-4 | 276 | 09/28/1980 | 2 | Utah |
| 71 | Shropshire, Darrell | DT | 6-2 | 301 | 03/18/1983 | 1 | South Carolina |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 29 | Cash, Chris | CB | 5-10 | 185 | 07/13/1980 | 3 | USC |
| 25 | Crocker, Chris | S | 5-11 | 192 | 03/09/1980 | 3 | Marshall |
| 40 | Ferri, Diamond | S | 5-10 | 214 | 08/06/1981 | 0 | Syracuse |
| 21 | Hall, DeAngelo | CB | 5-10 | 197 | 11/19/1983 | 2 | Virginia Tech |
| 26 | Lowe, Omare | S | 6-1 | 195 | 04/20/1978 | 4 | Washington |
| 23 | Mathis, Kevin | CB | 5-9 | 185 | 04/29/1974 | 8 | Tx. A&M-Commerce |
| 36 | Milloy, Lawyer | S | 6-0 | 190 | 11/14/1973 | 10 | Washington |
| 39 | Newton, Cam | S | 6-1 | 203 | 05/19/1982 | 1 | Furman |
| 20 | Rossum, Allen | CB | 5-8 | 187 | 10/22/1975 | 8 | Notre Dame |
| 22 | Torrence, Leigh | CB | 6-0 | 183 | 01/04/1982 | 1 | Stanford |
| 37 | Treaudo, Ahmad | CB | 5-10 | 181 | 04/15/1982 | 1 | Southern |
| 27 | Webster, Jason | CB | 5-9 | 187 | 09/08/1977 | 6 | Texas A&M |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 46 | Ballard, Derrick | LB | 6-1 | 206 | 12/08/1981 | 0 | Memphis |
| 59 | Boley, Michael | LB | 6-3 | 236 | 08/24/1982 | 1 | Southern Miss |
| 56 | Brooking, Keith | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 10/30/1975 | 8 | Georgia Tech |
| 50 | Hartwell, Edgerton | LB | 6-1 | 250 | 05/27/1978 | 5 | Western Illinois |
| 54 | Leake, John | LB | 6-0 | 230 | 08/28/1981 | 1 | Clemson |
| 53 | Patterson, Martin | LB | 6-1 | 243 | 02/18/1983 | 0 | TCU |
| 98 | Reese, Ike | LB | 6-2 | 222 | 10/16/1973 | 8 | Michigan State |
| 51 | Williams, Demorrio | LB | 6-0 | 232 | 07/06/1980 | 2 | Nebraska |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 9 | Koenen, Michael | P | 5-11 | 185 | 07/13/1982 | 1 | Western Wash. |
| 6 | Rossner, Ryan | K | 6-3 | 230 | 03/30/1982 | 0 | Stephen F. Austin |

COURTESY NFL

2005 RECORD: 3-13 | www.neworleanssaints.com

# NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

NFC SOUTH #4

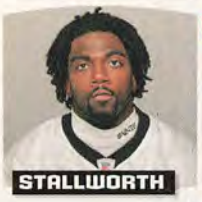
LOUISIANA SUPERDOME
CAPACITY: 69,703 | TURF: ARTIFICIAL | TICKETS: 504-731-1700

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 2 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 3 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 5 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| LINEBACKERS | 2 |
| SECONDARY | 3 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 5 |
| MANAGEMENT | 2 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Drew Brees | LE | Will Smith | P | Mitch Berger |
| FB | Mike Karney | LT | Brian Young | PR | Donte' Stallworth |
| RB | Reggie Bush | RT | Willie Whitehead | H | John Carney |
| LT | Jammal Brown | RE | Charles Grant | HR | Aaron Stecker |
| LG | Montrae Holland | LLB | Anthony Simmons | | |
| C | Jeff Faine | MLB | Colby Bockwoldt | | |
| RG | Jermane Mayberry | RLB | Scott Fujita | | |
| RT | Jon Stinchcomb | LCB | Mike McKenzie | | |
| TE | Ernie Conwell | RCB | Jason Craft | | |
| WR | Donte' Stallwworth | SS | Josh Bullocks | | |
| WR | Joe Horn | FS | Dwight Smith | | |




### ON THE RISE

**DONTE' STALLWORTH**
wide receiver
He could end up as the Saints' No. 1 receiver this season.

### FADING FAST

**DEUCE McALLISTER**
running back
Coming back from a major knee injury, McAllister may lose his starting job to rookie Reggie Bush.

# New Brees blowin'

The Saints are welcoming some much-needed fresh air in their backfield with the arrival of free agent Drew Brees and rookie Reggie Bush.

In the course of a year, the New Orleans Saints have gone from being chronic underachievers to everyone's favorite underdog.

Those lowered expectations just might turn out to be a positive as the Saints and the city of New Orleans try to rebuild.

"The best thing we can do for that city and that region is win football games," Coach Sean Payton says.

Winning football games was something the Saints didn't do very much of last season. But it seemed unimportant in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Damage from that storm pushed the Saints out of the Superdome and left them splitting their "home" games between San Antonio and Baton Rouge. That uncertainty contributed heavily to a talented team falling apart. The Saints went 3-13 and Jim Haslett, who always seemed to come up just short of the playoffs, was fired as coach.

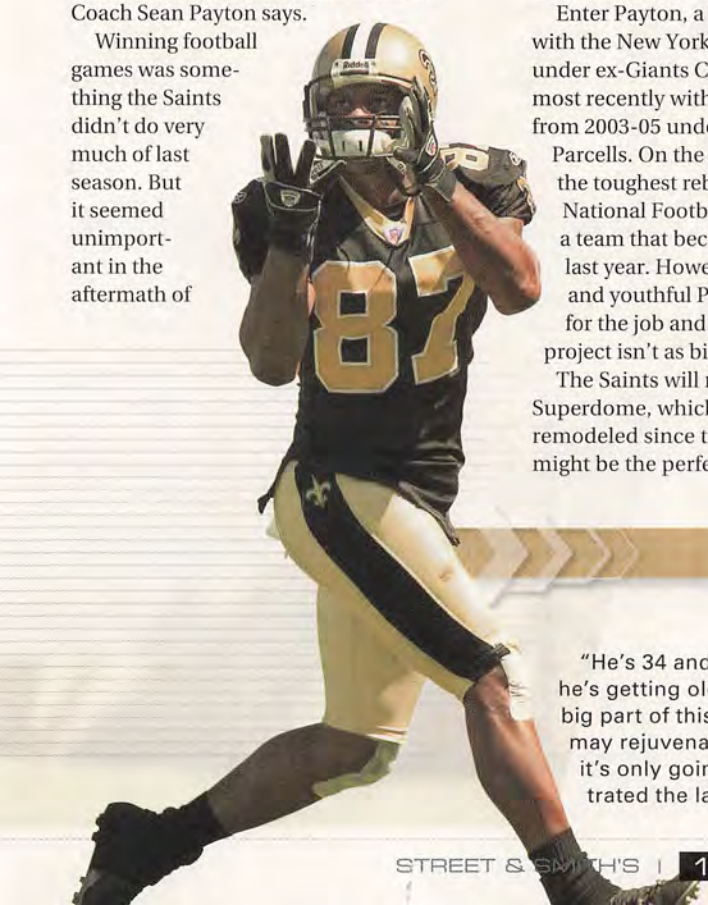
Enter Payton, a former assistant coach with the New York Giants from 1999-2002 under ex-Giants Coach Jim Fassel and most recently with the Dallas Cowboys from 2003-05 under Cowboys Coach Bill Parcells. On the surface, he faces perhaps the toughest rebuilding job in the National Football League. He inherits a team that became very good at losing last year. However, maybe the energetic and youthful Payton is the perfect guy for the job and perhaps the rebuilding project isn't as big as it may seem.

The Saints will return home to the Superdome, which has been significantly remodeled since the storm. The dome might be the perfect symbol for the Saints, who still have some pretty strong remnants of the Haslett infrastructure, with running back Deuce McAllister, receiver Joe Horn and a talented defensive line all still in place.

But there's been plenty of sprucing up to do, and a blend of the old and new just might allow Payton to turn things around quickly. His first major act as coach was bringing in free-agent quarterback Drew Brees from the San Diego Chargers. His second big move was drafting running back Reggie Bush from Southern Cal with the second overall pick.

With those two skill-position players, the Saints should be able to score some points. However, much will depend on Brees, who led the Chargers to the playoffs two years ago. At the very least, Brees will enjoy a honeymoon period with the fans of New Orleans.

He's replacing the underachieving Aaron Brooks, who was dumped along with Haslett. Talented but wildly inconsistent, Brooks never came close to living up to the high expectations in New Orleans. Brees may not have Brooks' natural talents, but he has the intangibles. Brees is a proven decision-maker and he'll have more weapons around him than Brooks did at any time last season. The bottom really dropped out for the Saints in last year's fifth game, when McAllister went down for



## THE BOOK ON ... JOE HORN

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"He's 34 and his numbers were down last year. The first thing you think is that he's getting old. But I think this guy still has a little football in him and can be a big part of this offense. I think the coaching change and the quarterback change may rejuvenate him a little bit. Plus, if Donte' Stallworth continues to come on, it's only going to help. This is a guy who is a competitor and he's been frustrated the last few years. All the changes might be good for him."

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TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; BRIAN A. WESTERHOLT / WIRE IMAGE.COM

## FACT

New Orleans allowed 6.1 yards per play on first down, the worst first-down average by a defensive unit in the NFL last season.

## STAT

On their 48 scoring drives in 2005, the Saints averaged an NFL-high 8.9 plays to get on the board. The average time of a New Orleans scoring drive was 4:11, the longest in the NFC. Only San Diego (4:16) took more time to score.

## LOOK IT UP

Eleven times the Saints were within five yards of the goal line in 2005, but they managed just five rushing touchdowns in those situations. That was the lowest rushing-conversion rate (45.5 percent) in the league.

## 5-YEAR WINS

## SAINTS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **JIM MORA** (11 YEARS)
   **Record with Saints:** 93-78
2. **JIM HASLETT** (6 YEARS)
   **Record with Saints:** 46-52
3. **BUM PHILLIPS** (5 YEARS)
   **Record with Saints:** 27-42

## THE COUNT

**5**
Sacks recorded by the Saints' defense over the final six games of last year.

**16.7**
New Orleans' fourth-down conversion rate, the worst in the league in 2005.

**23**
Saints' scoring drives with penalties generating first downs, the most in the NFL last season.

## 2006 SCHEDULE

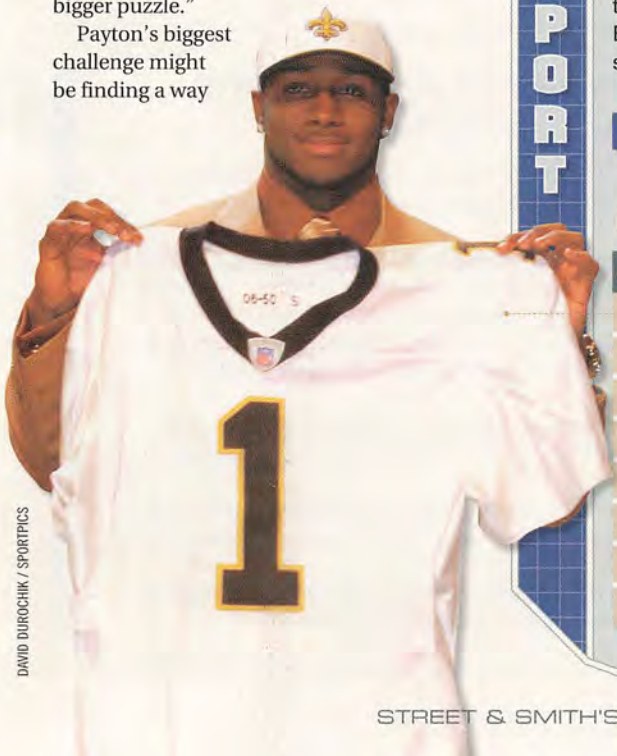
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 1 @ Cleveland | SEPT. 10 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 2 @ Green Bay | SEPT. 17 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 3 vs. Atlanta | SEPT. 25 | 8:30 |
| ★ MUST-SEE GAME ★ *The Saints get to play a true home game for the first time since Hurricane Katrina, and the national TV audience gets its first look at Reggie Bush.* | | SCORE |
| WEEK 4 @ Carolina | OCT. 1 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 5 vs. Tampa Bay | OCT. 8 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 6 vs. Philadelphia | OCT. 15 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 7 *OPEN DATE* | | |
| WEEK 8 vs. Baltimore | OCT. 29 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 9 @ Tampa Bay | NOV. 5 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 10 @ Pittsburgh | NOV. 12 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 11 vs. Cincinnati | NOV. 19 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 12 @ Atlanta | NOV. 26 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 13 vs. San Francisco | DEC. 3 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 14 @ Dallas | DEC. 10 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 15 vs. Washington | DEC. 17 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 16 @ New York Giants | DEC. 24 | 1:00 SCORE |
| WEEK 17 vs. Carolina | DEC. 31 | 1:00 SCORE |

the season with an ACL injury. That put Brooks in an impossible situation where he tried unsuccessfully to carry the offense by himself.

Brees won't have to do that. Not only will McAllister be back, but the Saints may have an even better rusher in Bush, who some scouts claim is the best running back to enter the NFL in a decade.

"I'm excited because I think [Bush] will make Deuce a better player and help make Joe Horn a better player," Saints General Manager Mickey Loomis says. "It will help make our defense better. This is the kind of guy who can help us as a team, and he is just one element. He is not a savior. He is a good player, a really good player, but let's not put the entire fortunes of the New Orleans Saints and the city of New Orleans on this kid's shoulders. As broad as they are, he is just one piece of a much bigger puzzle."

Payton's biggest challenge might be finding a way



DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

## NFL DRAFT 2006 DRAFT REPORT

Once it became clear the Texans were going to select Mario Williams with the No. 1 overall pick, the entire New Orleans organization had to be thrilled to add **Reggie Bush**. He is instant offense and will help the team immediately as a runner, receiver and return man. The only thing that could stop him from being NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year is a long contract holdout. Jeff Faine was acquired from Cleveland in a trade on draft day to replace LeCharles Bentley at center. **Roman Harper** was a four-year starter at Alabama, but was a reach midway through the second round. **Jahri Evans** is a small-college lineman who can provide depth at guard and tackle. **Rob Ninkovich** is an undersized pass-rush specialist. Overachieving **Mike Hass** is a tremendously productive receiver who could make big plays for years in this league. **Josh Lay** is a talented cornerback, but must show more consistent effort and desire. **Zach Strief** is a pure right tackle who could ease the transition of Jammal Brown to the left side. **Marques Colston** is a size/speed prospect who could surprise.

GRADE: **B-**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | Bush, Reggie | RB | 5-11 | 200 | USC |
| 2 | 11 | Harper, Roman | S | 6-0 | 197 | Alabama |
| 4 | 11 | Evans, Jahri | T | 6-4 | 317 | Bloomsburg |
| 5 | 2 | Ninkovich, Rob | DE | 6-3 | 260 | Purdue |
| 6 | 2 | Hass, Mike | WR | 6-0 | 208 | Oregon State |
| 6 | 5 | Lay, Josh | DB | 6-0 | 196 | Pittsburgh |
| 7 | 2 | Strief, Zach | G | 6-7 | 349 | Northwestern |
| 7 | 44 | Colston, Marques | TE | 6-4 | 223 | Hofstra |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | W | 23-20 | at Carolina |
| 09/19 | L | 10-27 | New York Giants |
| 09/25 | L | 16-33 | at Minnesota |
| 10/02 | W | 19-7 | Buffalo |
| 10/09 | L | 3-52 | at Green Bay |
| 10/16 | L | 31-34 | Atlanta |
| 10/23 | L | 17-28 | at St. Louis |
| 10/30 | L | 6-21 | Miami |
| 11/06 | L | 17-20 | Chicago |
| 11/20 | L | 17-24 | at New England |
| 11/27 | W | 21-19 | at New York Jets |
| 12/04 | L | 3-10 | Tampa Bay |
| 12/12 | L | 17-36 | at Atlanta |
| 12/18 | L | 10-27 | Carolina |
| 12/24 | L | 12-13 | Detroit |
| 01/01 | L | 13-27 | at Tampa Bay |

WON **3**, LOST **13**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Smith | 166 | 659 | 4.0 | 42 | 3 |
| Stecker | 95 | 363 | 3.8 | 32 | 0 |
| McAllister | 93 | 335 | 3.6 | 26 | 3 |
| Brooks | 45 | 281 | 6.2 | 22 | 2 |
| Bouman | 8 | 15 | 1.9 | 6 | 0 |
| Karney | 6 | 12 | 2.0 | 3 | 0 |
| A. Thomas | 7 | 12 | 1.7 | 4 | 0 |
| Henderson | 1 | 9 | 9.0 | 9 | 0 |
| Stallworth | 2 | 2 | 1.0 | 3 | 0 |
| **Saints** | **423** | **1688** | **4.0** | **42** | **8** |
| **Opponents** | **503** | **2145** | **4.3** | **64** | **16** |

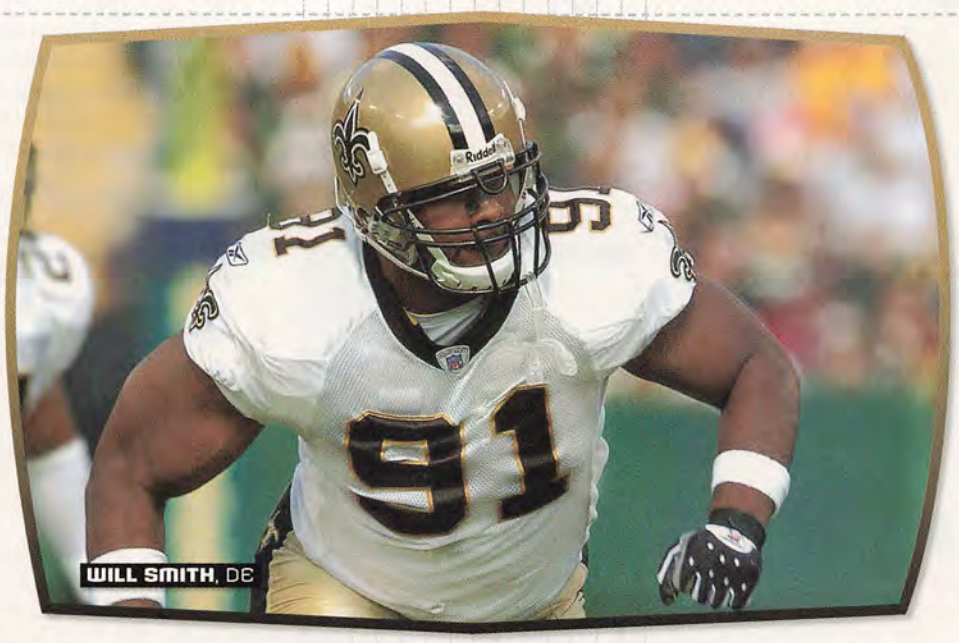
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stallworth | 70 | 945 | 13.5 | 43 | 7 |
| Horn | 49 | 654 | 13.3 | 30 | 1 |
| Hilton | 35 | 396 | 11.3 | 29 | 1 |
| Stecker | 35 | 281 | 8.0 | 41 | 0 |
| Hakim | 34 | 489 | 14.4 | 42 | 2 |
| Henderson | 22 | 343 | 15.6 | 66 | 3 |
| McAllister | 17 | 117 | 6.9 | 22 | 0 |
| Conwell | 13 | 165 | 12.7 | 31 | 1 |
| A. Smith | 12 | 46 | 3.8 | 8 | 0 |
| Karney | 10 | 61 | 6.1 | 10 | 0 |
| Hall | 6 | 36 | 6.0 | 8 | 0 |
| Poole | 3 | 63 | 21.0 | 42 | 0 |
| A. Thomas | 2 | 8 | 4.0 | 6 | 0 |
| **Saints** | **308** | **3604** | **11.7** | **66** | **15** |
| **Opponents** | **241** | **3014** | **12.5** | **68** | **20** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brooks | 431 | 240 | 2882 | 13 | 17 |
| Bouman | 122 | 68 | 722 | 2 | 7 |
| **Saints** | **553** | **308** | **3604** | **15** | **24** |
| **Opponents** | **418** | **241** | **3014** | **20** | **10** |

**SACKS**

W. Smith 8.5, Bryant 4, Howard 3.5, F. Thomas 3, Grant 2.5, Craft 1, D. Smith 1, Watson 1, Whitehead 0.5

**Saints 25, Opponents 41**




DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

to make sure McAllister, Bush and free-agent pickup Michael Bennett each get enough carries, but that's a nice problem to have. McAllister had run for more than 1,000 yards in each of the three seasons prior to last year, and the Saints don't plan on phasing him out. Instead, they'll try to blend him with Bush.

McAllister and Bush both have good receiving skills, and that should create more touches and make life easier for Brees. Bennett has the tools to be an effective third-down back and fullback Mike Karney is an effective lead blocker.

However, the Saints won't have to rely totally on their running backs. They have a pair of capable receivers in Horn and Donte' Stallworth. Horn's numbers were way down last season, but the Saints believe he is still is a No. 1 receiver and can get back to his form of 2004, when he had 94 catches for 1,399 yards and 11 touchdowns. Stallworth struggled in his first three seasons with New Orleans, but started to flash promise last season when he had 70 catches for 945 yards and seven touchdowns, and the Saints believe he can continue to improve.

After losing center LeCharles Bentley to Cleveland in free agency, releasing guard Kendyl Jacox and trading tackle Wayne Gandy, the offensive line will go through an overhaul.

Jeff Faine was acquired from the Browns in a draft-day trade to take over at center. With Jacox out of the picture, veterans Jermane Mayberry and Montrae Holland will be the starting guards. Jammal Brown had a promising rookie season at right tackle and, with Gandy's departure, will make the move to the left side this year. Three-year veteran Jon Stinchcomb will get the first shot at right tackle, but rookie Jahri Evans, Ben Archibald and Jamar Nesbit will push him for the job in training camp.

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Saints)*

"There definitely is some talent here and this team could be competitive right away. But they're in a tough division and it's going to take a couple years for them to be really good. ...

"They cleaned house of some of the previous problems, but not all of them. [Coach] Sean Payton's got to win over a locker room that's still got some under-achievers and malcontents and a lot will depend on how they respond to him. ...

"Getting [Reggie] Bush was huge for them because he's a great player and nobody knows how good [Deuce] McAllister is going to be coming off the [ACL] injury. ...

"They better hope that [Drew] Brees is really over his shoulder problems because Todd Bouman's a decent backup—but not the kind of guy that you want playing too much. ...

"They've got talent on the defensive line, but the previous staff didn't get the most out of it. If the new coaches can get those guys playing consistently, it will help the whole defense. ...

"The skill-position players will make them interesting to watch, but there are too many uncertainties right now for them to totally turn it around."

There aren't as many questions on the defensive line, where end Will Smith is emerging as a pass-rushing force. He has 16 total sacks in his first two seasons and will be the centerpiece of the defense. Charles Grant will start at the other end and the coaching staff hopes he can rebound to his form of 2004 when he had 10.5 sacks. The middle of the defensive line is solid with veterans Willie Whitehead and Brian Young as the starters, while Johnathan Sullivan, who started to emerge last season, will rotate in often. The Saints also added veteran run-stuffer Hollis Thomas in a draft-day trade with Philadelphia.

Young, Whitehead, Thomas and Sullivan will have to do a good job of tying up blockers because New Orleans' linebacker corps is not very strong after the departure of free agents Ronald McKinnon and Sedrick Hodge. Colby Bockwoldt (89 tackles in 2005) is the best of the holdovers. Free-agent acquisitions Scott Fujita and Anthony Simmons are the most likely candidates to join him in the starting lineup. Terrence Melton, who started two games last year on the strongside, will also push for a starting role, as will James Allen, who was slowed by injuries in 2005.

The secondary has some promise and could be good if the pass rush provides some help. Mike McKenzie, Jason Craft and Fred Thomas give the Saints three cornerbacks capable of starting. Safety Josh Bullocks showed promise as a rookie last year and will line up next to veteran Dwight Smith.

The special teams might be the strongest area of all. Punter Mitch Berger and kicker John Carney are very reliable and should help the Saints with field position. The return game should also be strong, with Stallworth likely taking over as the punt returner and Aaron Stecker handling kickoffs. The Saints also have two of the league's better all-around special-teams players in Fred McAfee and Steve Gleason.

In a division where the Panthers and Bucs were in the playoffs last year and Atlanta came close, expectations aren't very high for the Saints. But there are plenty of quality parts in place. It may take some time to get them assembled, but the Saints are much like their city: They're moving forward with the rebuilding process.

FINAL GRADE: 70 STOCK UP REPORT

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Drew Brees**, QB (SD)
- **Michael Bennett**, RB (MIN)
- **Scott Fujita**, LB (DAL)
- **Chris Horn**, WR (KC)
- **Omar Stoutmire**, DB (WAS)
- **Mark Campbell**, TE (BUF)
- **Anthony Simmons**, LB (SEA)
- **Bryan Scott**, DB (trade, ATL)
- **Hollis Thomas**, DT (trade, PHI)
- **Jeff Faine**, C (trade, CLE)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Aaron Brooks**, QB (OAK)
- **Antowain Smith**, RB (HOU)
- **LeCharles Bentley**, C (CLE)
- **Sedrick Hodge**, LB (MIA)
- **Darren Howard**, DE (PHI)
- **Fakhir Brown**, CB (STL)
- **Wayne Gandy**, OT (trade, ATL)
- **T.J. Slaughter**, LB (SF)
- **Anthony Thomas**, RB (BUF)
- **Mel Mitchell**, DB (NE)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 314.4 | 20 |
| Rushing | 105.5 | 18 |
| Passing | 208.9 | 14 |
| Scoring | 235 | 31 |
| Punt Returns | 7.0 | 23 |
| Kick Returns | 20.2 | 27 |
| Red Zone TD % | 38.1 | 28t |
| Total Defense | 312.1 | 14 |
| Against Rush | 134.1 | 27 |
| Against Pass | 178.1 | 3 |
| Points Allowed | 398 | 28 |
| Interceptions | 10 | 26t |
| Sacks | 25 | 31 |
| Turnover Diff. | -24 | 31t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 312 | 89 | 182 | 41 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | PG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 42 | 162 | 16 | 17 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 15 | 0 | 0 |

## SAINTS ROSTER

**Sean Payton, head coach**; **Gary Gibbs**, def. coord.; **Doug Marrone**, off. coord./off. line; **John Bonamego**, special teams coord.; **Joe Vitt**, asst. head coach/linebackers; **George Henshaw**, senior asst./running backs; **Dennis Allen**, asst. def. line; **Pete Carmichael, Jr.**, quarterbacks; **Tom Hayes**, def. backs; **Marion Hobby**, def. line; **Curtis Johnson**, wide receivers; **Terry Malone**, tight ends; **Greg McMahon**, asst. special teams; **John Morton**, off. asst./passing game; **Tony Oden**, def. asst./secondary

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | Bouman, Todd | QB | 6-2 | 226 | 08/01/1972 | 5 | St. Cloud State |
| 9 | Brees, Drew | QB | 6-0 | 209 | 01/15/1979 | 5 | Purdue |
| 10 | Martin, Jamie | QB | 6-2 | 205 | 02/08/1970 | 7 | Weber State |
| 5 | McPherson, Adrian | QB | 6-3 | 218 | 05/08/1983 | 0 | Florida State |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 60 | Archibald, Ben | T | 6-3 | 320 | 08/26/1978 | 1 | Brigham Young |
| 70 | Brown, Jammal | T | 6-6 | 313 | 03/30/1981 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| 59 | Faine, Jeff | C | 6-3 | 291 | 04/06/1981 | 3 | Notre Dame |
| 76 | Goodwin, Jonathan | G | 6-3 | 318 | 12/02/1978 | 4 | Michigan |
| 74 | Hoffmann, Augie | G | 6-2 | 315 | 02/23/1981 | 0 | Boston College |
| 61 | Holland, Montrae | G | 6-2 | 322 | 05/21/1980 | 3 | Florida State |
| 47 | Houser, Kevin | C | 6-2 | 252 | 08/23/1977 | 6 | Ohio State |
| 75 | Mayberry, Jermane | G | 6-4 | 325 | 08/29/1973 | 10 | TX. A&M-Kingsville |
| 67 | Nesbit, Jamar | G | 6-4 | 328 | 12/17/1976 | 7 | South Carolina |
| 63 | Setterstrom, Chad | G | 6-3 | 310 | 06/13/1980 | 0 | Northern Iowa |
| 78 | Stinchcomb, Jon | T | 6-5 | 315 | 08/27/1979 | 3 | Georgia |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 28 | Bennett, Michael | RB | 5-9 | 211 | 08/13/1978 | 5 | Wisconsin |
| 45 | Joseph, Keith | RB | 6-2 | 223 | 12/09/1981 | 0 | Texas A&M |
| 44 | Karney, Mike | RB | 5-11 | 258 | 07/06/1981 | 2 | Arizona State |
| 26 | McAllister, Deuce | RB | 6-1 | 232 | 12/27/1978 | 5 | Mississippi |
| 46 | Schurman, Nate | RB | 6-2 | 247 | 11/08/1981 | 0 | Missouri State |
| 27 | Stecker, Aaron | RB | 5-10 | 213 | 11/13/1975 | 6 | Western Illinois |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 89 | Campbell, Mark | TE | 6-6 | 255 | 12/06/1975 | 6 | Michigan |
| 85 | Conwell, Ernie | TE | 6-2 | 255 | 08/17/1972 | 10 | Washington |
| 17 | Davis, Josh | WR | 6-1 | 190 | 12/11/1980 | 0 | Marshall |
| 19 | Henderson, Devery | WR | 5-11 | 200 | 03/26/1982 | 2 | LSU |
| 86 | Hilton, Zachary | TE | 6-8 | 268 | 07/02/1980 | 2 | North Carolina |
| 81 | Horn, Chris | WR | 5-11 | 195 | 07/13/1977 | 2 | Rocky Mountain |
| 87 | Horn, Joe | WR | 6-1 | 213 | 01/16/1972 | 10 | Itawamba (MS) CC |
| 82 | Lawrie, Nate | TE | 6-5 | 262 | 10/17/1981 | 2 | Yale |
| 84 | Lewis, Michael | WR | 5-8 | 173 | 11/14/1971 | 5 | None |
| 80 | Meier, Shad | TE | 6-4 | 255 | 06/07/1978 | 5 | Kansas State |
| 16 | Moore, Lance | WR | 5-11 | 184 | 08/31/1983 | 0 | Toledo |
| 88 | Poole, Nate | WR | 6-2 | 204 | 02/01/1977 | 4 | Marshall |
| 83 | Stallworth, Donte' | WR | 6-0 | 196 | 11/10/1980 | 4 | Tennessee |
| 14 | Thomas, Levon | WR | 6-0 | 195 | 07/07/1983 | 0 | Georgia Tech |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 92 | Bryant, Tony | DE | 6-6 | 282 | 09/03/1976 | 6 | Florida State |
| 94 | Grant, Charles | DE | 6-3 | 290 | 09/03/1978 | 4 | Georgia |
| 95 | Green, Howard | DT | 6-2 | 320 | 01/12/1979 | 3 | LSU |
| 77 | Leisle, Rodney | DT | 6-3 | 315 | 02/05/1981 | 2 | UCLA |
| 91 | Smith, Will | DE | 6-3 | 282 | 07/04/1981 | 2 | Ohio State |
| 97 | Sullivan, Johnathan | DT | 6-3 | 315 | 01/21/1981 | 3 | Georgia |
| 99 | Thomas, Hollis | DT | 6-0 | 306 | 01/10/1974 | 9 | Northern Illinois |
| 79 | Verdon, Jimmy | DE | 6-3 | 280 | 11/04/1981 | 1 | Arizona State |
| 95 | Woodard, Cedric | DT | 6-2 | 310 | 09/05/1977 | 4 | Texas |
| 66 | Young, Brian | DT | 6-2 | 298 | 07/08/1977 | 6 | UTEP |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 20 | Bellamy, Jay | S | 5-11 | 200 | 07/08/1972 | 12 | Rutgers |
| 23 | Booker, Fred | CB | 5-9 | 199 | 06/04/1978 | 1 | LSU |
| 29 | Bullocks, Josh | S | 6-1 | 207 | 02/28/1983 | 1 | Nebraska |
| 21 | Craft, Jason | CB | 5-10 | 187 | 02/13/1976 | 7 | Colorado State |
| 37 | Gleason, Steve | S | 5-11 | 212 | 03/19/1977 | 6 | Washington State |
| 34 | McKenzie, Mike | CB | 6-0 | 194 | 04/26/1976 | 7 | Memphis |
| 38 | Scott, Bryan | S | 6-1 | 219 | 04/13/1981 | 3 | Penn State |
| 24 | Smith, Dwight | S | 5-10 | 201 | 08/13/1978 | 5 | Akron |
| 23 | Stoutmire, Omar | S | 5-11 | 205 | 07/09/1974 | 9 | Fresno State |
| 22 | Thomas, Fred | CB | 5-9 | 185 | 09/11/1973 | 10 | Tennessee-Martin |
| 31 | Thomas, Joey | CB | 6-1 | 190 | 08/29/1980 | 2 | Montana State |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 50 | Allen, James | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 11/11/1979 | 4 | Oregon State |
| 57 | Bockwoldt, Colby | LB | 6-1 | 237 | 04/14/1981 | 2 | Brigham Young |
| 56 | Fincher, Alfred | LB | 6-1 | 238 | 08/15/1983 | 1 | Connecticut |
| 52 | Fujita, Scott | LB | 6-5 | 250 | 04/28/1979 | 4 | California |
| 51 | Melton, Terrence | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 01/01/1977 | 2 | Rice |
| 54 | Rabe, Russell | LB | 6-2 | 235 | 06/21/1982 | 0 | Minnesota-Duluth |
| 55 | Watson, Courtney | LB | 6-1 | 246 | 09/18/1980 | 2 | Notre Dame |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 17 | Berger, Mitch | P | 6-4 | 228 | 06/24/1972 | 11 | Colorado |
| 3 | Carney, John | K | 5-11 | 185 | 04/20/1964 | 18 | Notre Dame |

COURTESY NFL

# NFC WEST

## New-look Cardinals could be a pest in weak West, but Seahawks still have the wings to fly highest

By **Don Pierson** *Chicago Tribune*

Tradition suggests the Seattle Seahawks won't even make the playoffs this season, let alone repeat in the NFC West. Super Bowl losers take a while to recover.

In Seattle's case, that would be hard to believe. The NFC West is a very safe place to lick wounds. It's the only division with one winning team in 2005.

For the Arizona Cardinals, St. Louis Rams or San Francisco 49ers to challenge the Seahawks, it would require a surprising leap. Not that surprises are outlawed in today's NFL.

By adding Edgerrin James, the Cardinals appear most ready to contend, although James may be surprised not to find the same supporting cast he had in Indianapolis. James and Seattle's Shaun Alexander (the reigning NFL MVP) give the division two of the league's premier running backs, and the Cardinals already had the makings of a decent defense.

The Rams are starting over with Coach Scott Linehan replacing Mike Martz, whose "Greatest Show on Turf" ran its course. They still have talent. The 49ers started over last year with Mike Nolan and aren't ready for prime time.

Seattle Seahawks Coach Mike Holmgren scoffs at the Super Bowl loser jinx, but worries about more believable jinxes such as injury. He didn't like losing Pro Bowl guard Steve Hutchinson to Minnesota, but hopes former All-Pro linebacker Julian Peterson can regain the form he once flashed in San Francisco.

The Seahawks have a bad taste in their mouths from the Super Bowl XL loss to Pittsburgh because they didn't play up to their capability. As the league's top scoring offense, Seattle did not stagger into the Super Bowl the way they staggered out, so they still have plenty of incentive.

**PREDICTED** ORDER OF FINISH:


1 p.170

2 p.174

3 p.178

4 p.182


It starts with Matt Hasselbeck, who led all NFC passers in touchdowns despite mostly handing off to Alexander. An encore awaits.

Arizona Cardinals Coach Dennis Green is surprised he didn't win more in his first two seasons in Phoenix. He thinks the third should be charming, especially with the advantage of a brand new, state-of-the-art, retractable-roof stadium. For once, the Cardinals don't have to open on the road to avoid the Arizona heat.

However, the heat will be turned up on Green, who is sticking with veteran quarterback Kurt Warner to direct an offense now filled with skilled playmakers such as James and top receivers Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin. If Warner falters, Green won't hesitate to try former Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart, who is eager to prove he is better than the 10th pick and second quarterback taken in the draft.

Surprisingly, the defense ranked eighth in the league last season in yards allowed per game—but 26th in points allowed, which is more important. And Arizona led the league in penalties.

Linehan is an offensive coach too, so the transition for the St. Louis Rams from Martz isn't expected to be so traumatic. Linehan promises to utilize running back Steven Jackson more, but receivers Torry Holt, Isaac Bruce and fast-developing Kevin Curtis remain the focal point for quarterback Marc Bulger.

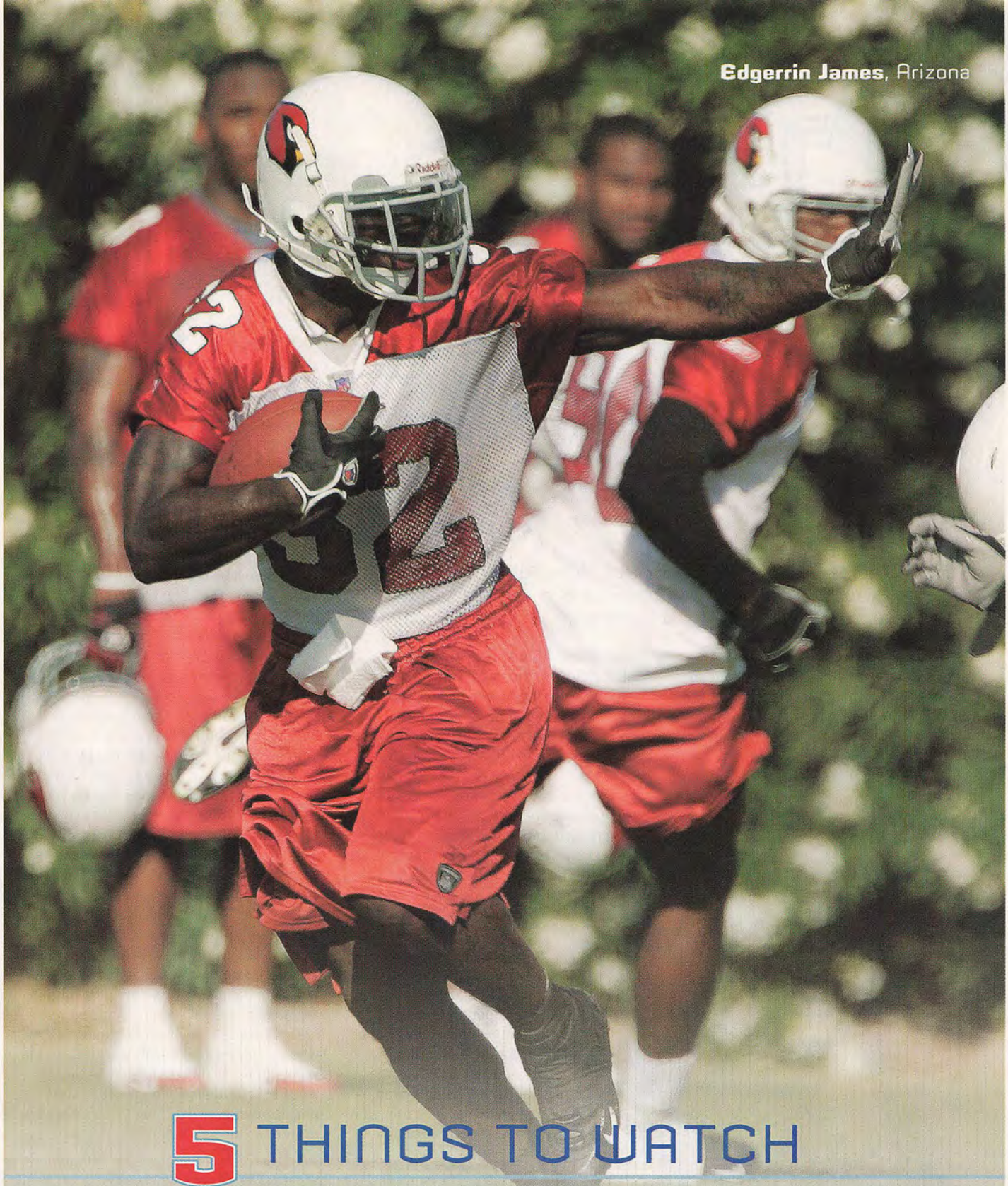
The defense is in dire need of repair and the former New Orleans Saints head coach, Jim Haslett, is in charge of fixing it. From front to back, the Rams brought in free agents La'Roi Glover (tackle), Will Witherspoon (linebacker) and safety Corey Chavous (safety) to begin the rebuilding, then made Clemson cornerback Tye Hill their top draft choice.

The Rams were fourth among all NFC teams in scoring last year, but also gave up more points than anybody in the NFC.

The San Francisco 49ers' momentum of winning their final two games in 2005 helped ease the reality of the league's worst offense and defense, a very unhappy combination.

While the 49ers played some close games, Nolan's first order of business is to eliminate such lopsided scores as 52-17, 42-3 and 41-3.

Alex Smith needs to stay healthy in order to progress as the No. 1 quarterback in last year's draft. Signing big guard Larry Allen from Dallas should help. Rookie tight end Vernon Davis, the top draft choice in the division, appears ready to contribute the most and the fastest. He will get plenty of opportunity.



**Edgerrin James**, Arizona

MIKE MOORE / WIRE IMAGE.COM

# 5 THINGS TO WATCH

**1** Mike Holmgren. Seattle's coach didn't have a great Super Bowl and is again pondering his future. He doesn't want this season to get away from him.

**2** The "new" Cardinals. After decades of despair, the Cards are reducing the excuses and have arguably the best new stadium in the league.

**3** Shaun Alexander. He finally got his money in Seattle and Seahawks fans are anxious to see how hard he will still run for it.

**4** Edgerrin James. How much difference can a great running back really make? They loved him in Indianapolis.

**5** New Rams coaches. Not counting last year's illness and firing, Mike Martz is a hard act to follow for Scott Linehan and Defensive Coordinator Jim Haslett.

2005 RECORD: 13-3 | www.seahawks.com

# SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

NFC WEST #1

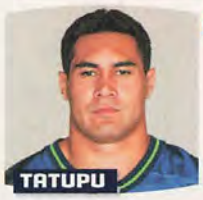
QWEST FIELD
CAPACITY: 67,000 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 888-NFL-HAWK

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 4 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 5 |
| RECEIVERS | 3 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| LINEBACKERS | 4 |
| SECONDARY | 3 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 3 |
| MANAGEMENT | 4 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Matt Hasselbeck | LE | Bryce Fisher | P | Tom Rouen |
| FB | Mack Strong | LT | Chuck Darby | PR | Peter Warrick |
| RB | Shaun Alexander | RT | Rocky Bernard | H | Josh Brown |
| LT | Walter Jones | RE | Grant Wistrom | KR | Josh Scobey |
| LG | Floyd Womack | LLB | Leroy Hill | | |
| C | Robbie Tobeck | MLB | Lofa Tatupu | | |
| RG | Chris Gray | RLB | Julian Peterson | | |
| RT | Sean Locklear | LCB | Kelly Herndon | | |
| TE | Jerramy Stevens | RCB | Marcus Trufant | | |
| WR | Darrell Jackson | SS | Michael Boulware | | |
| WR | Nate Burleson | FS | Ken Hamlin | | |




### ON THE RISE

**LOFA TATUPU**
linebacker
He led the team in more ways than just tackles during his rookie year.

### FADING FAST

**TOM ROUEN**
punter
His 13th season wasn't his best, ending in a sub-par Super Bowl.

# Open line

Finding a capable replacement for All-Pro guard Steve Hutchinson is key to more rushing yards for Shaun Alexander and another Super Bowl.

Mike Holmgren always leaves them wanting more. It works better for comedians than for football coaches. After finally breaking through years of disappointments to get to their first Super Bowl, the Seattle Seahawks suffered their biggest disappointment yet, an unhappy loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Blaming questionable officiating helped treat the pain, but did little to cure the wound. After the best season in their history, punctuated by an MVP performance from the NFL's leading rusher last season, Shaun Alexander, the Seahawks simply must find a way to get even better.

Signing Alexander to a long-term contract helps, but losing Super Bowl starters Steve Hutchinson and Marquand Manuel and valuable third receiver Joe Jurevicius in free agency hurts. They also released starting cornerback Andre Dyson.

Facing the sorry history of Super Bowl losers is another challenge. The last five found rebounding too hard and failed to reach the playoffs the following season.

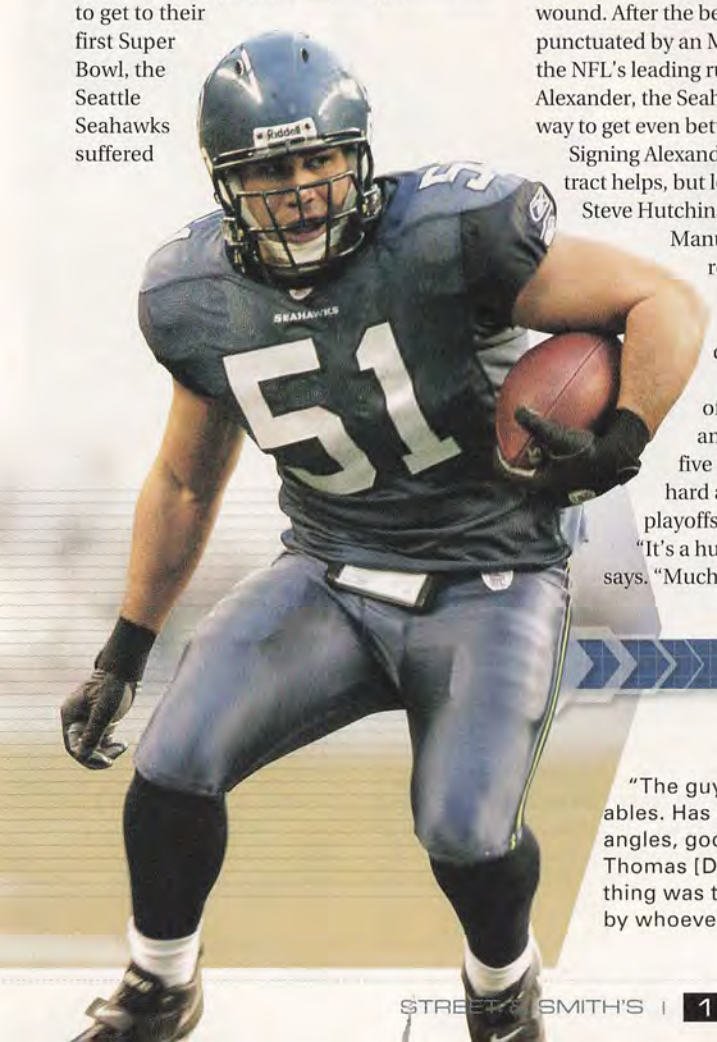
"It's a huge challenge," Holmgren says. "Much will be written about the fact that a losing team at the Super Bowl next year has historically had kind of a down year. There is no logical reason for that. There is no hocus-pocus about that. When it happens, it happens for football reasons and hopefully you can avoid those."

Holmgren began working on the mindset of his players as soon as he was able to put the disappointment behind him. He believes they can get back.

"Oh, I do," he says. "Your key players have to have good seasons. Last year our key players had very fine seasons. And you expect them to, you pay them to, they should. And then the second thing is you have to be fortunate with injuries in our business. Unlike some of the other pro leagues, in our business, you look at any couple or three teams—bam—they had no chance because of injuries."

How the loss of Hutchinson will affect Alexander is question No. 1. The answer will go a long way toward settling age-old football arguments over whether great blockers or great tailbacks are more important to a successful running game.

Hutchinson is an all-world guard who was playing next to all-world left tackle Walter Jones, giving the Seahawks the best left side in football. Holmgren intends to plug in veteran Floyd "Pork Chop" Womack in Hutchinson's spot between Jones and



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## THE BOOK ON ... LOFA TATUPU

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"The guy's a football player. Tough, physical. Doesn't have all the measureables. Has great leadership. Everybody rallies around him. He's smart, knows angles, good in coverage. Just a complete football player. A young Zach Thomas [Dolphins] and more physical than Zach. The height-weight-speed thing was the only reason he lasted until the second round. It was a home run by whoever made the decision to draft him."

LES BENTLEY

### FACT

With Seattle's Super Bowl loss, it joined eight teams that have been to at least one Super Bowl and never won, including Buffalo (0-4), Minnesota (0-4), Cincinnati (0-2), Philadelphia (0-2), Atlanta (0-1), Carolina (0-1), Tennessee (0-1) and San Diego (0-1).

### STAT

Shaun Alexander has 98 TDs since the start of 2001, the most in the NFL and 15 more than the next-closest player, Chiefs RB Priest Holmes. Alexander has also rushed for the most yards (7,504) over that span. San Diego's LaDainian Tomlinson is next (7,361).

### LOOK IT UP

Including the postseason, Mike Holmgren's 149 career wins rank fifth among active coaches. Only Marty Schottenheimer (191), Bill Parcells (174), Joe Gibbs (157) and Bill Cowher (153) have more.

### 5-YEAR WINS

### SEAHAWKS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **CHUCK KNOX** (9 YEARS)
   **Record with Seahawks:** 83-67
2. **MIKE HOLMGREN** (7 YEARS)
   **Record with Seahawks:** 65-53
3. **JACK PATERA** (7 YEARS)
   **Record with Seahawks:** 35-59

### THE COUNT

**76.1**
Matt Hasselbeck's completion percentage in December last season, the highest for that month in NFL history.

**11**
The number of consecutive games Seattle won in 2005, breaking the team record of eight set in 1984.

**23-1**
Seattle's record when Shaun Alexander scores at least two touchdowns.

## 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 1** @ Detroit | SEPT. 10 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 2** vs. Arizona | SEPT. 17 | 4:05 SCORE |
| **WEEK 3** vs. New York Giants | SEPT. 24 | 4:15 SCORE |
| **WEEK 4** @ Chicago | OCT. 1 | 8:15 SCORE |
| **WEEK 5** *OPEN DATE* | | |
| **WEEK 6** @ St. Louis | OCT. 15 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 7** vs. Minnesota | OCT. 22 | 4:15 SCORE |
| **WEEK 8** @ Kansas City | OCT. 29 | 1:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 9** vs. Oakland | NOV. 6 | 8:30 SCORE |
| **WEEK 10** vs. St. Louis | NOV. 12 | 4:15 SCORE |
| **WEEK 11** @ San Francisco | NOV. 19 | 4:05 SCORE |
| **WEEK 12** vs. Green Bay | NOV. 27 | 8:30 SCORE |
| **WEEK 13** @ Denver | DEC. 3 | 4:15 SCORE |
| **WEEK 14** @ Arizona | DEC. 10 | 4:05 SCORE |
| **WEEK 15** vs. San Francisco | DEC. 14 | 8:00 SCORE |
| **WEEK 16** vs. San Diego | DEC. 24 | 4:15 SCORE |
| **WEEK 17** @ Tampa Bay | DEC. 31 | 1:00 SCORE |

★ **MUST-SEE GAME** ★

*The two teams traded player raids, with the Vikings heisting guard Steve Hutchinson and the Seahawks retaliating by grabbing receiver Nate Burleson.*

## NFL DRAFT 2006 — DRAFT REPORT

center Robbie Tobeck. He also drafted guard Rob Sims out of Ohio State.

Womack has been around for five years and started at both tackles and right guard, but this will be his first experience at left guard, where Hutchinson dominated. How much does playing next to Jones help? Plenty. Enough for the Seahawks not to miss Hutchinson? That's what Womack will help decide.

Holmgren said he is not inclined to convert 2005 first-round draft pick Chris Spencer into a guard. He is a center waiting his turn behind Tobeck. Chris Gray and Sean Locklear hold down the right side of the line and Tom Ashworth was signed from New England to replace Womack as the principal backup, with second-year prospect Ray Willis also returning. Ashworth could push Gray at right guard.

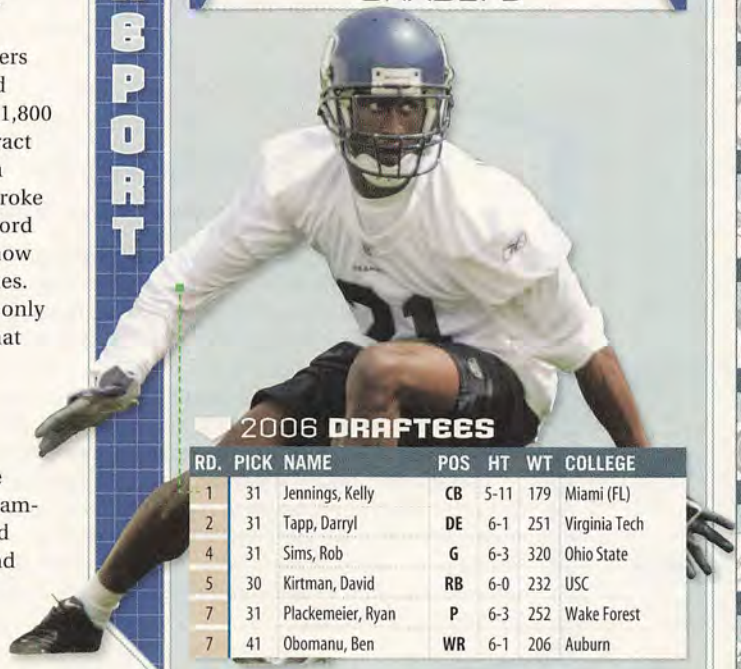
Although the line is the foundation of Holmgren's offense, Alexander's season was too good to give his blockers all the credit. Alexander has improved from the 1,400-yard range to 1,600 to 1,800 his last three seasons, earning a contract worth $62 million if fulfilled. Always a great goal-line producer, Alexander broke Priest Holmes' NFL single-season record with 28 touchdowns last season. He now has 100 touchdowns in 96 career games. Jim Brown and Emmitt Smith are the only two players in NFL history to reach that mark faster.

Alexander is also the only player in NFL history to score 15 or more touchdowns in five consecutive seasons. At 28, he remains in his prime with only one goal left on his list—a championship. The Seahawks have re-signed venerable lead blocker Mack Strong and still have Maurice Morris as a capable backup to Alexander.

Quarterback Matt Hasselbeck is coming off his best season, leading

After losing Andre Dyson in free agency, the Seahawks added **Kelly Jennings** to be the team's nickel back. A four-year starter at the University of Miami, he will need to add strength to be more of a factor coming up in run support. **Darryl Tapp** lacks size but excelled as a pass rusher at Virginia Tech. **Rob Sims**, who played left tackle at Ohio State, should be a top backup at tackle and guard. **David Kirtman** will be groomed to replace fullback Mack Strong. **Ryan Plackemeier** was the draft's best kicker, according to some experts, and should make the final roster. **Ben Obomanu** did little to excite at Auburn, but had enough size, speed and athletic ability to take a chance on late in the draft. It was a good draft for the Seahawks, who addressed their needs with quality players up and down.

**GRADE: B**



OTTO GREULE / WIRE IMAGE.COM

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 31 | Jennings, Kelly | CB | 5-11 | 179 | Miami (FL) |
| 2 | 31 | Tapp, Darryl | DE | 6-1 | 251 | Virginia Tech |
| 4 | 31 | Sims, Rob | G | 6-3 | 320 | Ohio State |
| 5 | 30 | Kirtman, David | RB | 6-0 | 232 | USC |
| 7 | 31 | Plackemeier, Ryan | P | 6-3 | 252 | Wake Forest |
| 7 | 41 | Obomanu, Ben | WR | 6-1 | 206 | Auburn |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | L | 14-26 | at Jacksonville |
| 09/18 | W | 21-18 | Atlanta |
| 09/25 | W | 37-12 | Arizona |
| 10/02 | L | 17-20 | at Washington |
| 10/09 | W | 37-31 | at St. Louis |
| 10/16 | W | 42-10 | Houston |
| 10/23 | W | 13-10 | Dallas |
| 11/06 | W | 33-19 | at Arizona |
| 11/13 | W | 31-16 | St. Louis |
| 11/20 | W | 27-25 | at San Francisco |
| 11/27 | W | 24-21 | New York Giants |
| 12/05 | W | 42-0 | at Philadelphia |
| 12/11 | W | 41-3 | San Francisco |
| 12/18 | W | 28-24 | at Tennessee |
| 12/24 | W | 28-13 | Indianapolis |
| 01/01 | L | 17-23 | at Green Bay |

WON **13**, LOST **3**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alexander | 370 | 1880 | 5.1 | 88t | 27 |
| Morris | 71 | 288 | 4.1 | 49 | 1 |
| Hasselbeck | 36 | 124 | 3.4 | 23 | 1 |
| Weaver | 17 | 80 | 4.7 | 24 | 0 |
| Strong | 17 | 78 | 4.6 | 16 | 0 |
| Jackson | 1 | 7 | 7.0 | 7 | 0 |
| Warrick | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| Wallace | 6 | -5 | -0.8 | 0 | 0 |
| **Seahawks** | **519** | **2457** | **4.7** | **88t** | **29** |
| **Opponents** | **420** | **1510** | **3.6** | **50** | **5** |

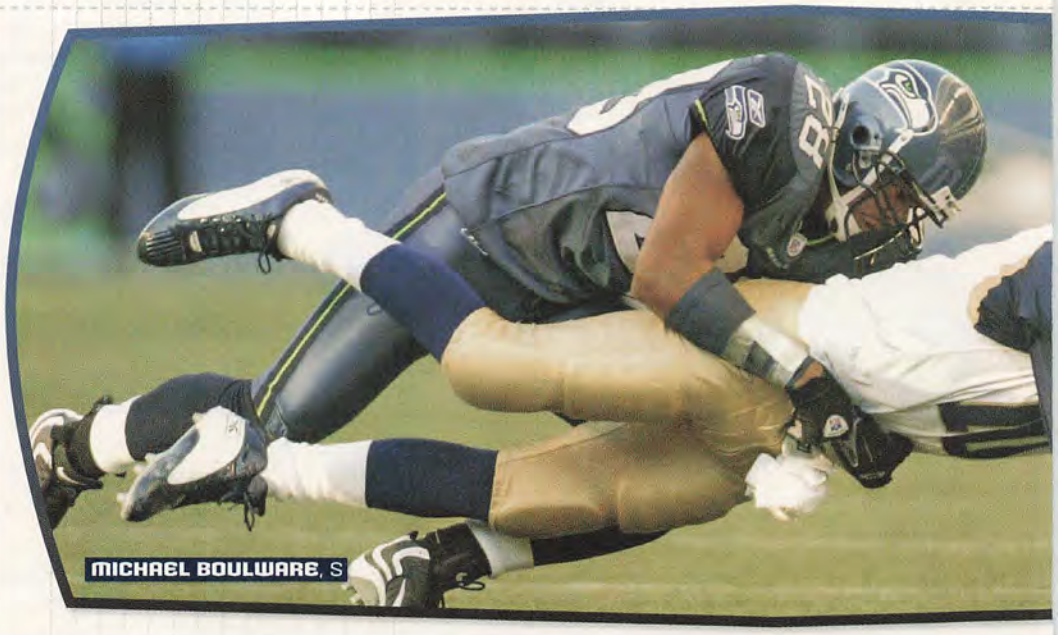
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Engram | 67 | 778 | 11.6 | 56 | 3 |
| Jurevicius | 55 | 694 | 12.6 | 52 | 10 |
| Stevens | 45 | 554 | 12.3 | 35t | 5 |
| Jackson | 38 | 482 | 12.7 | 48 | 3 |
| Hackett | 28 | 400 | 14.3 | 47 | 2 |
| Strong | 22 | 166 | 7.5 | 27 | 0 |
| Alexander | 15 | 78 | 5.2 | 9 | 1 |
| Hannam | 13 | 89 | 6.8 | 20 | 1 |
| Warrick | 11 | 180 | 16.4 | 42 | 0 |
| Urban | 7 | 151 | 21.6 | 46 | 0 |
| Morris | 5 | 48 | 9.6 | 20 | 0 |
| Weaver | 1 | 12 | 12.0 | 12 | 0 |
| **Seahawks** | **307** | **3632** | **11.8** | **56** | **25** |
| **Opponents** | **331** | **3861** | **11.7** | **63** | **18** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hasselbeck | 449 | 294 | 3459 | 24 | 9 |
| Wallace | 25 | 13 | 173 | 1 | 1 |
| **Seahawks** | **474** | **307** | **3632** | **25** | **10** |
| **Opponents** | **571** | **331** | **3861** | **18** | **16** |

**SACKS**

Fisher 9, Bernard 8.5, Hill 7.5, Tubbs 5.5, Tatupu 4, Wistrom 4, Darby 2.5, Boulware 2, Terrill 2, Tafoya 1, Trufant 1

**Seahawks 50, Opponents 27**


MICHAEL BOULWARE, S

the NFC in passer-efficiency rating while completing a career-high 65.5 percent of his passes for the league's highest-scoring offense. Although his Super Bowl performance was not his best, Hasselbeck demonstrated he can carry the load by throwing 24 touchdown passes and only nine interceptions, despite an injury to Darrell Jackson that limited the team's top receiver to only six games. Jackson had knee surgery during the offseason.

Versatile Seneca Wallace and young David Greene, neither of whom could be expected to replace the starter for a long period, back up Hasselbeck.

Losing Jurevicius robs Hasselbeck of a big, reliable target and subtracts another good blocker for Alexander. But the addition of Nate Burleson from Minnesota in a tit-for-tat raid after the Hutchinson departure provides more firepower. Burleson is better in the slot than outside, so the Seahawks still could use more speed at the position.

Veteran Bobby Engram stepped up as the team's leading receiver last season, but could return to the third-receiver role behind Jackson and Burleson. Peter Warrick also provided some pleasant sparks, and with the continued development of tight end Jerramy Stevens, the Seahawks should give Hasselbeck his best corps of receivers yet. Stevens had problems in the Super Bowl, but his 45 catches for a 12.3 average and five touchdowns were career bests.

The Seahawks are in better position to absorb the losses of defensive backs Dyson and Manuel. Adding potential superstar linebacker Julian Peterson from San Francisco to play beside second-year stars Lofa Tatupu and Leroy Hill should turn what used to be a team weakness into a definite strength.

Two years removed from surgery on his left Achilles, Peterson is poised to return to Pro Bowl form on a team that already led the league in sacks last year. Tatupu became the team leader in tackles his first season and should

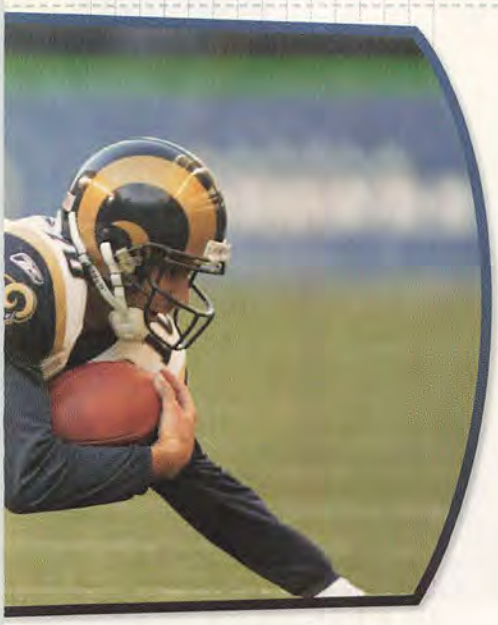
## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Seahawks)*

"They won't slump like other Super Bowl losers because they're in a bad division. They should be 12-4 or 11-5 at worst. They lost the offensive lineman, Steve Hutchinson, not a big deal. They still have four good offensive linemen. They'll miss him, but they'll plug in Floyd Womack and be good enough. ...

"They have the runner [Shaun Alexander], who got a lot of money. He wanted to get paid and he'll want to lead the league in rushing again. [Receiver] Nate Burleson had an awful year in Minnesota, but he'll help them by giving them more vertical stuff than [Joe] Jurevicius gave them. ...

"[Linebacker Julian] Peterson's second year back from an Achilles [injury] will be better. He'll never be what he was before, but I'd rather have him than [Giants] linebacker LaVar Arrington. [Peterson's] the type of guy who wants to prove he can get back to close to what he was before. Big addition. They have good corners and good safeties and a good middle linebacker in [Lofa] Tatupu. They're going to rock and roll."



(L TO R): OTTO GREULE JR. / GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY NFL

have been NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year. Hill had 7.5 sacks as the Seahawks' defense jumped from 26th to 16th and finally complemented the offense.

Starting ends Bryce Fisher and Grant Wistrom and tackles Chuck Darby and Rocky Bernard return. Marcus Tubbs, a strong third tackle, and free-agent acquisition Russell Davis (Arizona) will offset the departure of Rodney Bailey. Free agent Kemp Rasmussen (Carolina) and second-round pass rusher Darryl Tapp are also in the mix.

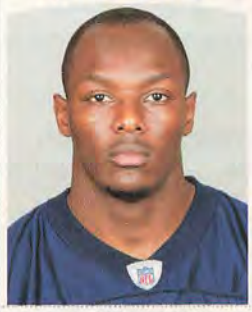
Dyson was released in anticipation of the development of Jordan Babineaux and the presence of Kelly Herndon opposite Marcus Trufant at corner. This year's top draft pick, Kelly Jennings, is a cover specialist who could help right away. At safety, the Seahawks are hoping for the full recovery of Ken Hamlin from a skull fracture suffered in a nightclub altercation.

With Manuel gone to Green Bay, the Seahawks traded for Chicago safety Mike Green, who has started at strong and free safety. Strong safety Michael Boulware, a converted linebacker, needs to make more plays in the passing game. Shaunard Harts and Oliver Celestin are backups.

Kicker Josh Brown and punter Tom Rouen are back. Josh Scobey and Warrick will return kicks, with Engram and Morris available for duty there. Punter Ryan Plackemeier was added in the seventh round because Rouen is entering his 14th season.

FINAL GRADE: 91 STOCK STEADY REPORT

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS



- **Mike Green**, DB (trade, CHI)
- **Julian Peterson**, LB (SF)
- **Tom Ashworth**, OT (NE)
- **Nate Burleson**, WR (MIN)
- **Russell Davis**, DT (ARI)
- **Will Heller**, TE (TB)
- **Kemp Rasmussen**, DE (CAR)
- **Oliver Celestin**, DB (NYJ)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Joe Jurevicius**, WR (CLE)
- **Marquand Manuel**, DB (GB)
- **Ryan Hannam**, TE (DAL)
- **Steve Hutchinson**, OG (MIN)
- **Rodney Bailey**, DE (PIT)
- **Anthony Simmons**, LB (NO)
- **Andre Dyson**, CB (NYJ)
- **Leo Araguz**, P (BAL)
- **Cleveland Pinkney**, DT (DET)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 369.7 | 2 |
| Rushing | 153.6 | 3 |
| Passing | 216.1 | 13 |
| Scoring | 452 | 1 |
| Punt Returns | 5.7 | 30 |
| Kick Returns | 22.1 | 16t |
| Red Zone TD % | 71.7 | 1 |
| Total Defense | 316.8 | 16t |
| Against Rush | 94.4 | 5 |
| Against Pass | 222.4 | 25 |
| Points Allowed | 271 | 7 |
| Interceptions | 16 | 14t |
| Sacks | 50 | 1 |
| Turnover Diff. | +10 | 7 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 361 | 142 | 192 | 27 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 60 | 333 | 43 | 11 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 29 | 25 | 0 | 3 |

## SEAHAWKS ROSTER

**Mike Holmgren, head coach**; **Gil Haskell**, off. coord.; **Nolan Cromwell**, wide receivers; **Bill Laveroni**, off. line; **Jim Lind**, tight ends; **Stump Mitchell**, running backs; **Jim Zorn**, quarterbacks; **Ray Rhodes**, def. coord.; **Teryl Austin**, def. backs; **Dwaine Board**, def. line; **John Marshall**, linebackers; **Zerick Rollins**, def. line; **Bob Casullo**, special teams; **John Jamison**, special teams asst.

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | Greene, David | QB | 6-3 | 226 | 06/22/1982 | 0 | Georgia |
| 5 | Hamdan, Gibran | QB | 6-4 | 208 | 02/08/1981 | 1 | Indiana |
| 8 | Hasselbeck, Matt | QB | 6-4 | 223 | 09/25/1975 | 7 | Boston College |
| 15 | Wallace, Seneca | QB | 5-11 | 196 | 08/06/1980 | 1 | Iowa State |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 68 | Ashworth, Tom | T | 6-6 | 305 | 10/10/1977 | 4 | Colorado |
| 52 | Darche, Jean-Philippe | C | 6-0 | 246 | 02/28/1975 | 6 | McGill |
| 49 | Gomez, Mike | C | 6-6 | 235 | 04/23/1982 | 0 | Illinois |
| 62 | Gray, Chris | G | 6-3 | 308 | 06/19/1970 | 13 | Auburn |
| 66 | Henry, William | T | 6-4 | 295 | 10/16/1981 | 0 | Clemson |
| 73 | Hunter, Wayne | T | 6-5 | 303 | 07/02/1981 | 2 | Hawaii |
| 71 | Jones, Walter | T | 6-5 | 308 | 01/19/1974 | 9 | Florida State |
| 75 | Locklear, Sean | G | 6-3 | 301 | 05/29/1981 | 2 | North Carolina St. |
| 65 | Spencer, Chris | C | 6-3 | 309 | 03/28/1982 | 1 | Mississippi |
| 61 | Tobeck, Robbie | C | 6-4 | 297 | 03/06/1970 | 12 | Washington State |
| 74 | Willis, Ray | T | 6-6 | 327 | 08/13/1982 | 1 | Florida State |
| 77 | Womack, Floyd | T | 6-4 | 330 | 11/15/1978 | 5 | Mississippi State |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 37 | Alexander, Shaun | RB | 5-11 | 225 | 08/30/1977 | 6 | Alabama |
| 41 | Dixon, Jimmy | RB | 6-1 | 230 | 04/26/1982 | 0 | Georgia Tech |
| 20 | Morris, Maurice | RB | 5-11 | 202 | 12/01/1979 | 4 | Oregon |
| 39 | Scobey, Josh | RB | 6-0 | 220 | 12/11/1979 | 3 | Kansas State |
| 38 | Strong, Mack | RB | 6-0 | 245 | 09/11/1971 | 12 | Georgia |
| 43 | Weaver, Leonard | RB | 6-0 | 251 | 09/23/1982 | 1 | Carson-Newman |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 85 | Bannister, Alex | WR | 6-5 | 207 | 04/23/1979 | 5 | Eastern Kentucky |
| 14 | Brown, Tony | WR | 6-2 | 199 | 05/29/1981 | 0 | Tennessee |
| 83 | Burleson, Nate | WR | 6-0 | 197 | 08/19/1981 | 3 | Nevada |
| 47 | Edwards, Brock | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 11/13/1981 | 0 | Texas |
| 84 | Engram, Bobby | WR | 5-10 | 188 | 01/07/1973 | 10 | Penn State |
| 18 | Hackett, D.J. | WR | 6-2 | 199 | 07/31/1981 | 1 | Colorado |
| 46 | Heller, Will | TE | 6-6 | 265 | 02/28/1981 | 3 | Georgia Tech |
| 19 | Howry, Keenan | WR | 5-10 | 178 | 06/17/1981 | 3 | Oregon |
| 82 | Jackson, Darrell | WR | 5-11 | 201 | 12/06/1978 | 6 | Florida |
| | Jones, C.J. | WR | 5-11 | 195 | 09/20/1980 | 0 | Iowa |
| 13 | Kasper, Kevin | WR | 6-1 | 197 | 12/23/1977 | 4 | Iowa |
| 17 | Mann, Maurice | WR | 6-2 | 185 | 09/14/1982 | 0 | Nevada |
| 88 | Mili, Itula | TE | 6-4 | 260 | 04/20/1973 | 8 | Brigham Young |
| 86 | Stevens, Jerramy | TE | 6-7 | 265 | 11/13/1979 | 4 | Washington |
| 10 | Wallace, Taco | WR | 6-1 | 190 | 04/14/1981 | 3 | Kansas State |
| 81 | Warrick, Peter | WR | 5-11 | 195 | 06/19/1977 | 6 | Florida State |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 99 | Bernard, Rocky | DT | 6-3 | 293 | 04/19/1979 | 4 | Texas A&M |
| 91 | Darby, Chuck | DT | 6-0 | 298 | 10/22/1975 | 5 | South Carolina St. |
| 95 | Davis, Russell | DT | 6-4 | 306 | 03/28/1975 | 7 | North Carolina |
| 94 | Fisher, Bryce | DE | 6-3 | 272 | 05/12/1977 | 5 | Air Force |
| 92 | Kashama, Alain | DE | 6-4 | 262 | 12/08/1979 | 2 | Michigan |
| 78 | Pollard, Robert | DE | 6-2 | 278 | 06/28/1981 | 1 | TCU |
| 72 | Rasmussen, Kemp | DE | 6-3 | 265 | 05/25/1979 | 4 | Indiana |
| 69 | Tafoya, Joe | DE | 6-4 | 265 | 09/06/1978 | 4 | Arizona |
| 93 | Terrill, Craig | DT | 6-3 | 287 | 06/27/1980 | 2 | Purdue |
| 90 | Tubbs, Marcus | DT | 6-3 | 320 | 05/16/1981 | 2 | Texas |
| 98 | Wistrom, Grant | DE | 6-4 | 272 | 07/03/1976 | 8 | Nebraska |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| | Austin, Reggie | CB | 5-9 | 185 | 01/21/1977 | 2 | Wake Forest |
| 27 | Babineaux, Jordan | S | 6-0 | 200 | 08/31/1982 | 2 | Southern Arkansas |
| 28 | Boulware, Michael | S | 6-2 | 223 | 09/17/1981 | 2 | Florida State |
| 40 | Celestin, Oliver | S | 6-0 | 207 | 02/25/1981 | 2 | Texas Southern |
| 25 | Frazier, Lance | CB | 5-10 | 183 | 05/23/1981 | 1 | West Virginia |
| 32 | Green, Mike | S | 6-0 | 195 | 12/06/1976 | 6 | Northwestern St. |
| 29 | Haw, Brandon | CB | 6-0 | 200 | 09/24/1980 | 0 | Rutgers |
| 31 | Herndon, Kelly | CB | 5-10 | 180 | 11/03/1976 | 4 | Toledo |
| 35 | Pruitt, Etric | S | 6-0 | 196 | 08/16/1981 | 2 | Southern Miss |
| 23 | Trufant, Marcus | CB | 5-11 | 199 | 12/25/1980 | 3 | Washington State |
| 22 | Williams, Jimmy | CB | 5-11 | 190 | 03/10/1979 | 5 | Vanderbilt |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 56 | Hill, LeRoy | LB | 6-1 | 229 | 09/14/1982 | 1 | Clemson |
| 58 | Kacyvenski, Isaiah | LB | 6-1 | 252 | 10/03/1977 | 6 | Harvard |
| 53 | Koutouvides, Niko | LB | 6-2 | 244 | 03/25/1981 | 2 | Purdue |
| 54 | Lewis, D.D. | LB | 6-1 | 241 | 01/08/1979 | 3 | Texas |
| 92 | Peterson, Julian | LB | 6-3 | 235 | 07/28/1978 | 6 | Michigan State |
| 51 | Tatupu, Lofa | LB | 6-0 | 238 | 11/15/1982 | 1 | USC |
| 50 | Wortham, Cornelius | LB | 6-1 | 234 | 01/25/1982 | 1 | Alabama |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 3 | Brown, Josh | K | 6-0 | 202 | 04/29/1979 | 3 | Nebraska |
| 4 | Lindstrom, Gabe | P | 6-4 | 220 | 05/25/1976 | 0 | Toledo |
| 16 | Rouen, Tom | P | 6-3 | 225 | 06/09/1968 | 13 | Colorado |

2005 RECORD: 5-11 | www.azcardinals.com

# ARIZONA

## CARDINALS

NFC WEST #2

**CARDINALS STADIUM**
CAPACITY: 63,000 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 602-379-0102

### POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 1 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 3 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 4 |
| RECEIVERS | 5 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 2 |
| LINEBACKERS | 3 |
| SECONDARY | 2 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 4 |
| MANAGEMENT | 3 |

### PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Kurt Warner | LE | Chike Okeafor | P | Scott Player |
| FB | Obafemi Ayanbadejo | LT | Kendrick Clancy | PR | Bryant Johnson |
| RB | Edgerrin James | RT | Darnell Dockett | K | Neil Rackers |
| LT | Leonard Davis | RE | Bertrand Berry | HR | Bryant Johnson |
| LG | Reggie Wells | LLB | Karlos Dansby | | |
| C | Alex Stepanovich | MLB | Gerald Hayes | | |
| RG | Deuce Lutui | RLB | Orlando Huff | | |
| RT | Oliver Ross | LCB | Antrel Rolle | | |
| TE | Eric Edwards | RCB | Eric Green | | |
| WR | Anquan Boldin | SS | Adrian Wilson | | |
| WR | Larry Fitzgerald | FS | Robert Griffith | | |

### ON THE RISE

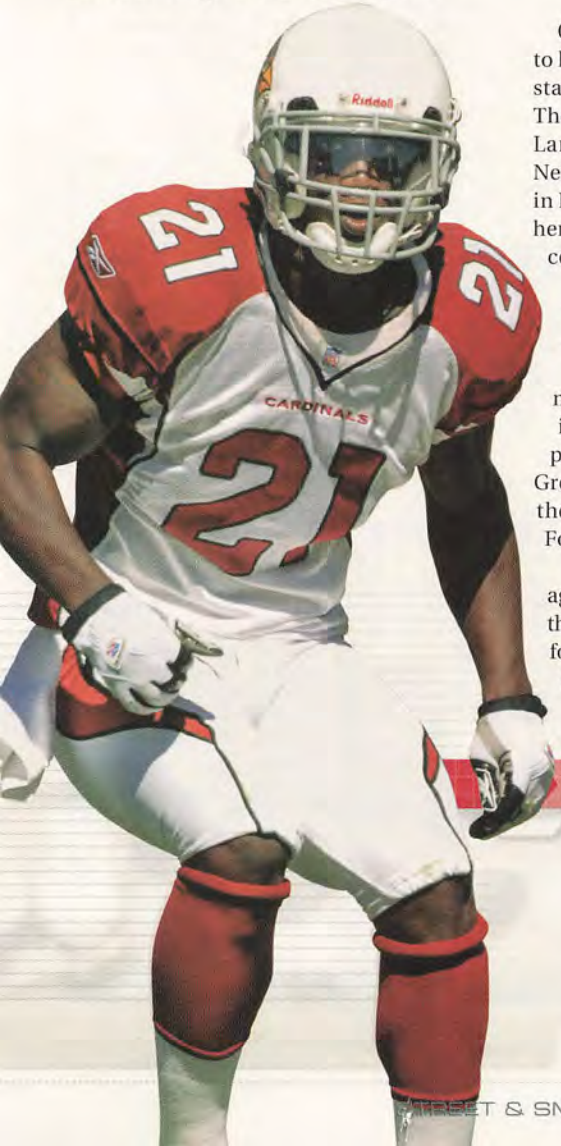
**LARRY FITZGERALD**
wide receiver
Already one of the position's best as he enters his third season.

### FADING FAST

**KURT WARNER**
quarterback
Over the last four seasons, with three teams, he has thrown 21 touchdown passes in 26 starts.

# Era of Good Feelings?

With some talented receivers, the drafting of a poster-boy QB and the opening of a new stadium, there are positive vibes all around Camp Cardinal entering this season.



Once again, the Cardinals are supposed to look different. They're in a brand new state-of-the-art stadium, for one thing. They have real stars in Anquan Boldin, Larry Fitzgerald, Adrian Wilson and Neil Rackers, an intriguing newcomer in Edgerrin James and one of the most heralded quarterbacks ever to come out of college in USC's Matt Leinart.

The stadium alone, a magnificent building with a retractable roof, should cure the team's inferiority complex.

"The Arizona Cardinals have never had an opening home game in 18 years in Arizona. That's a competitive disadvantage," Coach Dennis Green says. "Now we can operate like the other 31 teams in the National Football League."

The Cardinals open at home Sept. 10 against San Francisco. Two of their first three games are at home for only the fourth time since the franchise moved from St. Louis. And on Oct. 16, they play host to their first "Monday Night Football" game since 1999 when Chicago comes to town.

"If anything about that new stadium, it'll draw people in the beginning until we prove we will put the product out there every week," quarterback Kurt Warner says.

The Cardinals were supposed to be on the verge of a breakthrough in the soft NFC West last season. But a league-high 15 players ended up on injured reserve, 40 missed at least one game due to injury and the Cards lost six games by a touchdown or less. Besides that, they just didn't play very well at times and couldn't run a lick, finishing dead last in the league.

Yet Arizona finished eighth overall in both offense and defense, the only team in the league to finish in the top 10 on both sides of the ball. That indicates possibilities better than its 5-11 record.

Boldin and Fitzgerald each caught more than 100 passes, remarkable for a team that couldn't run. If James can produce the way he did for Indianapolis, Warner will feel seven years younger, the way he felt in St. Louis with Marshall Faulk, Torry Holt and Isaac Bruce.

"Edgerrin James was so much a part of their [the Colts'] success," Green says. "If he got 20 carries, he normally got 100 yards. If he got 100 yards, they normally won. It just breaks down the defense. It puts them in a situation where they have

## THE BOOK ON ... ANTREL ROLLE

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"The guy's got all the skills to be [Redskins DB] Champ Bailey or [Falcons DB] DeAngelo Hall. He got the injury as a rookie and missed a lot of time, but he can cover. They need him to stay healthy. He's got great feet, can turn and run, the whole package. He just needs to stay healthy. The first half of the season he'll still play like a rookie because he just didn't get enough time under his belt, but he's got all the tools."

NFL HELMET COURTESY SCOREHERE.COM. AVAILABLE FOR ORDER AT WWW.SCOREHERE.COM OR CALL: 800-784-2990.

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; NORM HALL

## FACT

The 2005 Cardinals finished eighth in the NFL in total offense and eighth in total defense, the only team in the league to rank in the top 10 in both categories.

## STAT

The Cardinals passed for 4,723 yards last season and rushed for just 1,138 yards. The differential of 3,585 yards was the third-largest gap between team passing and rushing yards in NFL history.

## LOOK IT UP

Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin became just the second receiving tandem in NFL history to each record 100 receptions and 1,400 receiving yards, joining Herman Moore and Brett Perriman of the 1995 Detroit Lions.

## 5-YEAR WINS

## CARDINALS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **DON CORYELL** (5 YEARS)
   **Record with Cardinals:** 42-29-1
2. **JIMMY CONZELMAN** (6 YEARS)
   **Record with Cardinals:** 35-32-3
3. **CHARLEY WINNER** (5 YEARS)
   **Record with Cardinals:** 35-30-5

## THE COUNT

**7-19**
Kurt Warner's record as a starting quarterback since his Super Bowl XXXVI loss to New England.

**2**
Rushing touchdowns by the Cardinals in 2005, the fewest since the 1995 New York Jets, who also recorded just two touchdowns.

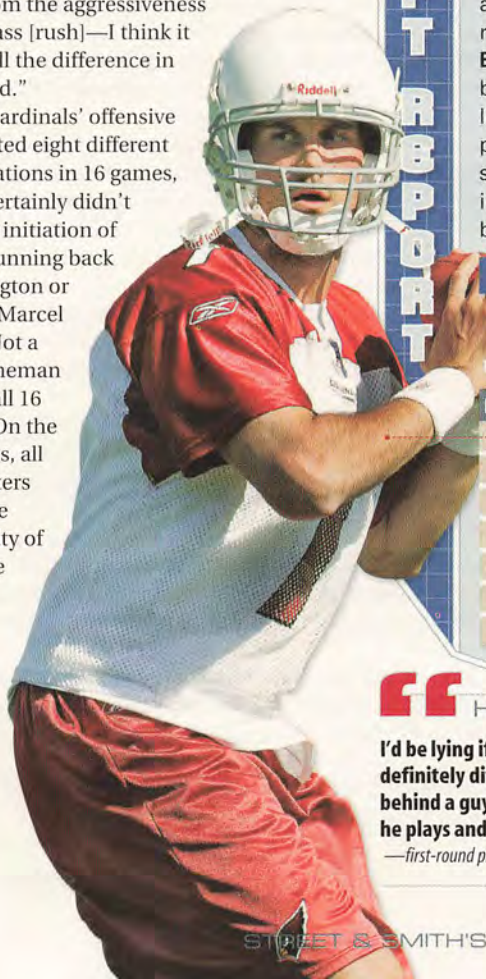
**45.0**
Percentage of Arizona's total points scored by kicker Neil Rackers last season.

to pick their poison. Do you want to stop Fitzgerald and Boldin? Or, do you have to stop Edgerrin James running the football? It's the classic 'you jab when they respond, then you counterpunch it.' We hope to be very good at that."

Green thinks James will make a shaky offensive line better.

"Absolutely. There aren't going to be many people who think the Colts have Hall-of-Fame offensive linemen," Green says. "But your style of running, how you set the blocks up and how they take away from the aggressiveness of the pass [rush]—I think it makes all the difference in the world."

The Cardinals' offensive line started eight different combinations in 16 games, which certainly didn't help the initiation of rookie running back J.J. Arrington or veteran Marcel Shipp. Not a single lineman started all 16 games. On the best lines, all five starters enjoy the continuity of an entire season.



MIKE MOORE / WIRE IMAGE.COM

## DRAFT REPORT

No one expected **Matt Leinart** to drop to No. 10 overall and it did not take long for the Cardinals to select the former Heisman Trophy winner. Given the injury history of Kurt Warner, look for Leinart to move in as a starter at some point this season. **Deuce Lutui** played guard and tackle for Southern Cal and should be a valued swingman in Arizona. **Leonard Pope** has first-round ability, but concerns regarding his 6-8 frame and ability to pick up complex offensive schemes dropped him into the third round. **Gabe Watson** was considered an inconsistent underachiever at Michigan, which led to his fourth-round slide. Louisville outside linebacker **Brandon Johnson** is a better athlete than football player. **Jonathan Lewis** is an underrated lineman who should push Darnell Dockett for playing time. **Todd Watkins** brings outstanding speed to an already-strong lineup of receivers in Arizona. This was a solid draft from top to bottom that filled needs with quality prospects.

**GRADE: A**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10 | Leinart, Matt | QB | 6-5 | 224 | USC |
| 2 | 9 | Lutui, Deuce | T | 6-4 | 333 | USC |
| 3 | 8 | Pope, Leonard | TE | 6-8 | 257 | Georgia |
| 4 | 10 | Watson, Gabriel | DT | 6-3 | 340 | Michigan |
| 5 | 9 | Johnson, Brandon | LB | 6-5 | 227 | Louisville |
| 6 | 8 | Lewis, Jonathan | DT | 6-1 | 310 | Virginia Tech |
| 7 | 10 | Watkins, Todd | WR | 6-2 | 201 | Brigham Young |

## HE SAID IT:

**I'd be lying if I said I wasn't nervous, but I felt comfortable. It's definitely different sitting back, but it's a great situation to learn behind a guy like Kurt [Warner], just to kind of watch and see how he plays and look at coverages.**

*—first-round pick Matt Leinart on his first day of minicamp*

## 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 1** vs. San Francisco | SEPT. 10 | 4:15 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 2** @ Seattle | SEPT. 17 | 4:05 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 3** vs. St Louis | SEPT. 24 | 4:15 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 4** @ Atlanta | OCT. 1 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 5** vs. Kansas City | OCT. 8 | 4:05 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 6** vs. Chicago | OCT. 16 | 8:30 |
| ★ MUST-SEE GAME ★ *The Cards' first "Monday Night Football" game since last century (1999) will show off their new state-of-the-art stadium.* | | |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 7** @ Oakland | OCT. 22 | 4:15 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 8** @ Green Bay | OCT. 29 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 9** *OPEN DATE* | | |
| **WEEK 10** vs. Dallas | NOV. 12 | 4:15 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 11** vs. Detroit | NOV. 19 | 4:05 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 12** @ Minnesota | NOV. 26 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 13** @ St. Louis | DEC. 3 | 1:00 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 14** vs. Seattle | DEC. 10 | 4:05 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 15** vs. Denver | DEC. 17 | 4:05 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 16** @ San Francisco | DEC. 24 | 4:05 |
| | | SCORE |
| **WEEK 17** @ San Diego | DEC. 31 | 4:15 |
| | | SCORE |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | L | 19-42 | at New York Giants |
| 09/18 | L | 12-17 | St. Louis |
| 09/25 | L | 12-37 | at Seattle |
| 10/02 | W | 31-14 | San Francisco |
| 10/09 | L | 20-24 | Carolina |
| 10/23 | W | 20-10 | Tennessee |
| 10/30 | L | 13-34 | at Dallas |
| 11/06 | L | 19-33 | Seattle |
| 11/13 | L | 21-29 | at Detroit |
| 11/20 | W | 38-28 | at St. Louis |
| 11/27 | L | 17-24 | Jacksonville |
| 12/04 | W | 17-10 | at San Francisco |
| 12/11 | L | 13-17 | Washington |
| 12/18 | L | 19-30 | at Houston |
| 12/24 | W | 27-21 | Philadelphia |
| 01/01 | L | 13-17 | at Indianapolis |

WON **5**, LOST **11**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shipp | 157 | 451 | 2.9 | 19 | 0 |
| Arrington | 112 | 370 | 3.3 | 32 | 2 |
| McCown | 29 | 139 | 4.8 | 12 | 0 |
| Ayanbadejo | 22 | 46 | 2.1 | 11 | 0 |
| Boldin | 12 | 45 | 3.8 | 11 | 0 |
| Fitzgerald | 8 | 41 | 5.1 | 15 | 0 |
| Warner | 13 | 28 | 2.2 | 13 | 0 |
| Jackson | 4 | 11 | 2.8 | 3 | 0 |
| Anderson | 2 | 7 | 3.5 | 6 | 0 |
| B. Johnson | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Cardinals** | **360** | **1138** | **3.2** | **32** | **2** |
| **Opponents** | **411** | **1632** | **4.0** | **88t** | **22** |

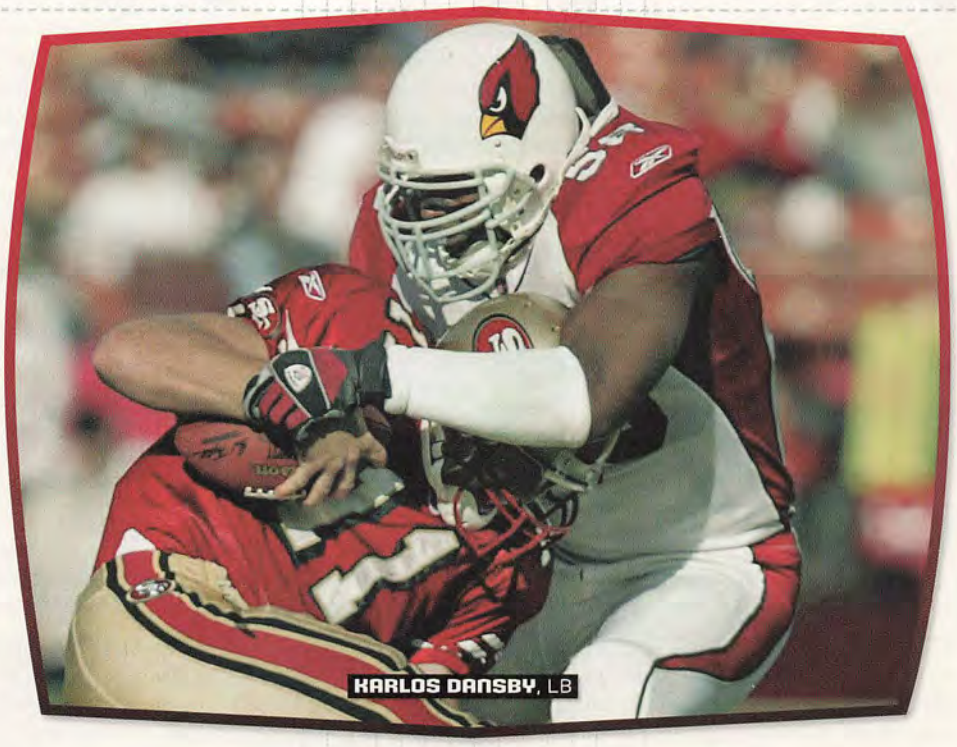
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fitzgerald | 103 | 1409 | 13.7 | 47 | 10 |
| Boldin | 102 | 1402 | 13.7 | 54t | 7 |
| B. Johnson | 40 | 432 | 10.8 | 41 | 1 |
| Shipp | 35 | 255 | 7.3 | 28 | 0 |
| Ayanbadejo | 34 | 231 | 6.8 | 18 | 0 |
| Bergen | 28 | 270 | 9.6 | 32 | 1 |
| Arrington | 25 | 139 | 5.6 | 15 | 0 |
| McCoy | 18 | 191 | 10.6 | 24 | 1 |
| Edwards | 12 | 133 | 11.1 | 63 | 1 |
| Lee | 11 | 152 | 13.8 | 49 | 0 |
| Newhouse | 4 | 45 | 11.3 | 17 | 0 |
| T. Johnson | 3 | 29 | 9.7 | 13 | 0 |
| Jackson | 2 | 31 | 15.5 | 19 | 0 |
| Baxter | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4 | 0 |
| Warner | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Cardinals** | **419** | **4723** | **11.3** | **63** | **21** |
| **Opponents** | **301** | **3314** | **11.0** | **65t** | **17** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Warner | 375 | 242 | 2713 | 11 | 9 |
| McCown | 270 | 163 | 1836 | 9 | 11 |
| Navarre | 24 | 14 | 174 | 1 | 1 |
| Boldin | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Cardinals** | **670** | **419** | **4723** | **21** | **21** |
| **Opponents** | **488** | **301** | **3314** | **17** | **15** |

**SACKS**

Wilson 8, Okeafor 7.5, Berry 6, Dansby 4, Kolodziej 3, Smith 3, Blackstock 1, Darling 1, Huff 1, Moore 1, Pace 1, Dockett 0.5

**Cardinals 37, Opponents 45**



KARLOS DANSBY, LB

AARON KEHOE / US PRESSWIRE

The Cardinals are counting on new Offensive Line Coach Steve Loney from Minnesota to provide stability and experience in Green's system. They hope bookend tackles Leonard Davis and Oliver Ross can stay healthy. Left guard Reggie Wells is coming off an ankle injury after starting 16 games in 2004. Right guard Milford Brown was signed from Houston, but could get pushed by second-round pick Deuce Lutui of USC. Alex Stepanovich is back at center, where he played every snap as a rookie in 2004 before a hand injury slowed him last season and he shifted between center and guard.

Jeremy Bridges, Nick Leckey, Elton Brown, Fred Wakefield, Shawn Lynch, Dante Ellington, Alan Reuber and Rolando Cantu will fight for backup spots.

Fullbacks Obafemi Ayanbadejo and James Hodgins will block for James. Bryant Johnson provides an excellent third wideout to complement Boldin and Fitzgerald, with LeRon McCoy, Carlyle Holiday and Zamir Cobb in reserve. Tight end Eric Edwards is mainly a blocker, but rookie Leonard Pope is a huge new target who could open things up even more.

With Warner, 35, the Cardinals are gambling since Josh McCown left in free agency for Detroit. Warner hasn't played a full season since 2001, so Leinart or third-year man John Navarre might get to play. Green has never been shy about playing rookies and won't hesitate to give Leinart his chance at the first opportunity. Given the poor pass protection, it might come sooner than even Leinart might like.

The defense ranked 26th in points allowed, so their No. 8 ranking in yards is misleading. The Cardinals are looking forward to the return of pass-rushing end Bertrand Berry, who missed the second half of last season with a pectoral muscle injury. He led the NFC in sacks in 2004. Chike Okeafor arrived from Seattle last season and led the Cardinals' linemen in sacks with 7.5. Antonio Smith

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Cardinals)*

"Same old, same old. [Running back] Edgerrin James is going to get killed. They have what you're looking for at wideout in [Larry] Fitzgerald and [Anquan] Boldin. Their quarterback [Kurt Warner] is going to get hurt again. The offensive line is bad. They won't be able to run it. ...

"They'll be able to throw it as long as Warner stays healthy. But the offensive line is so porous in pass protection that he'll get hurt. They just didn't add anybody of any stature in the offensive line and are counting on a rookie, Deuce Lutui, to start. ...

"Defensively, they're just run-of-the-mill. Gave up a lot of points. They were 5-11 last year and they'll be 6-10 this year."

played well enough in place of Berry to earn rotation time.

Third-year tackle Darnell Dockett is emerging as a force inside. Veteran Russell Davis went to Seattle and will be replaced by Kendrick Clancy, who started 15 games with the Giants last season. The Cards are hoping for backup help from Calvin Pace, a pass-rush specialist back from an off-field injury, plus Anton Palepoi, Langston Moore, Kenny King, Tim Bulman and big rookie Gabe Watson.

Outside linebacker Karlos Dansby is another emerging star who showed up in every defensive category—tackles for loss, sacks, interceptions, passes defended, forced fumbles, fumble recoveries and quarterback pressures.

The Cardinals expect Gerald Hayes back from knee surgery. Slated to start at middle linebacker, Hayes was capably replaced by James Darling last year, giving the team flexibility. Orlando Huff started 12 games at weakside linebacker and second-year prospects Darryl Blackstock and Lance Mitchell are pushing for more playing time.

Wilson, a strong safety, led the team in tackles and his eight sacks were the most ever by an NFL defensive back. Veteran Robert Griffith, who was a 16-game starter at free safety last year, joins Wilson in the secondary. Top 2005 draft pick Antrel Rolle started the first three games of the season at cornerback before a knee injury limited his season. With David Macklin and second-year prospect Eric Green joining a healthy Rolle, cornerback should be a strength. Green is expected to push Macklin for a starting spot.

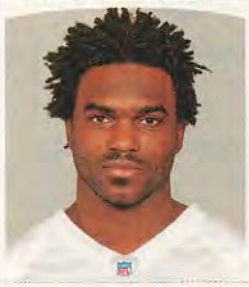
Robert Tate, Dyshod Carter, Aaron Francisco, Ernest Shazor and Lamont Reid will all vie for backup spots in the secondary.

Rackers is coming off a great season in which he converted 40 of 42 field-goal attempts, including six of seven from 50-plus yards. He is the first kicker to make 40 field goals in a season. Despite not kicking off in the final five games, he still finished first in the league in touchbacks with 22.

Punter Scott Player has had 50 kicks downed inside the 20-yard line in the last two seasons, giving the Cards an excellent tandem of kickers. Johnson is slated to replace Reggie Swinton on punts and kickoff returns.

COURTESY NFL (2)

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS



- **Edgerrin James**, RB (IND)
- **Kendrick Clancy**, DT (NYG)
- **Milford Brown**, OG (HOU)
- **Jack Brewer**, DB (PHI)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Russell Davis**, DT (SEA)
- **Quentin Harris**, DB (NYG)
- **Josh McCown**, QB (DET)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 348.4 | 8 |
| Rushing | 71.1 | 32 |
| Passing | 277.3 | 1 |
| Scoring | 311 | 17 |
| Punt Returns | 7.7 | 18 |
| Kick Returns | 22.6 | 13 |
| Red Zone TD % | 28.3 | 31 |
| Total Defense | 295.6 | 8 |
| Against Rush | 102.0 | 10 |
| Against Pass | 193.6 | 12 |
| Points Allowed | 387 | 26 |
| Interceptions | 15 | 19t |
| Sacks | 37 | 14t |
| Turnover Diff. | -11 | 30 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 304 | 58 | 224 | 22 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | PCT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 46 | 165 | 13 | 25 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 21 | 0 | 3 |

## CARDINALS ROSTER

**Dennis Green, head coach**; **Keith Rowen**, off. coord.; **Clancy Pendergast**, def. coord.; **Kirby Wilson**, running backs; **Richard Solomon**, def. backs; **Steve Loney**, off. line; **Frank Bush**, linebackers; **Mike Wilson**, wide receivers; **Larry Brooks**, def. line; **Gary Zauner**, special teams coord.; **Mike Kruczek**, quarterbacks; **Carl Hargrave**, tight ends

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | Davey, Rohan | QB | 6-2 | 245 | 04/14/1978 | 3 | LSU |
| 16 | Navarre, John | QB | 6-6 | 251 | 09/09/1980 | 2 | Michigan |
| 13 | Warner, Kurt | QB | 6-2 | 219 | 06/22/1971 | 8 | Northern Iowa |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 73 | Bridges, Jeremy | G | 6-4 | 323 | 04/19/1980 | 2 | Southern Miss |
| 61 | Brown, Elton | G | 6-4 | 339 | 05/22/1982 | 1 | Virginia |
| 67 | Brown, Milford | G | 6-4 | 331 | 08/15/1980 | 3 | Florida State |
| 69 | Cantu, Rolando | T | 6-5 | 361 | 02/25/1981 | 1 | None |
| 75 | Davis, Leonard | T | 6-6 | 366 | 09/05/1978 | 5 | Texas |
| 68 | Ellington, Dante | T | 6-6 | 330 | 02/29/1980 | 1 | Alabama |
| 60 | Leckey, Nick | C | 6-3 | 298 | 03/12/1982 | 2 | Kansas State |
| 65 | Lynch, Shawn | C | 6-4 | 294 | 07/25/1979 | 1 | Duke |
| 66 | Reuber, Alan | T | 6-6 | 323 | 01/26/1981 | 1 | Texas A&M |
| 79 | Ross, Oliver | T | 6-4 | 324 | 09/27/1974 | 6 | Iowa State |
| 71 | Stepanovich, Alex | C | 6-4 | 304 | 09/25/1981 | 2 | Ohio State |
| 78 | Wakefield, Fred | T | 6-7 | 312 | 09/17/1978 | 4 | Illinois |
| 74 | Wells, Reggie | G | 6-4 | 320 | 11/03/1980 | 3 | Clarion |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 22 | Anderson, Damien | RB | 5-11 | 212 | 07/17/1979 | 4 | Northwestern |
| 28 | Arrington, J.J. | RB | 5-9 | 214 | 01/23/1983 | 1 | California |
| 30 | Ayanbadejo, Obafemi | RB | 6-2 | 233 | 03/05/1975 | 7 | San Diego State |
| 42 | Hodgins, James | RB | 6-1 | 264 | 04/30/1977 | 6 | San Jose State |
| 32 | James, Edgerrin | RB | 6-0 | 214 | 08/01/1978 | 7 | Miami (FL) |
| 31 | Shipp, Marcel | RB | 5-11 | 225 | 08/08/1978 | 4 | Massachusetts |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 89 | Bergen, Adam | TE | 6-4 | 263 | 09/03/1983 | 1 | Lehigh |
| 81 | Boldin, Anquan | WR | 6-1 | 220 | 10/03/1980 | 3 | Florida State |
| 85 | Bronson, John | TE | 6-3 | 260 | 07/08/1982 | 1 | Penn State |
| 18 | Cobb, Zamir | WR | 5-11 | 182 | 06/11/1981 | 0 | Temple |
| 83 | Edwards, Eric | TE | 6-5 | 257 | 08/04/1980 | 2 | LSU |
| 11 | Fitzgerald, Larry | WR | 6-3 | 224 | 08/31/1983 | 2 | Pittsburgh |
| 84 | Hall, Ben | TE | 6-5 | 265 | 07/27/1982 | 0 | Clemson |
| 48 | Hodel, Nathan | TE | 6-2 | 248 | 11/12/1977 | 4 | Illinois |
| 15 | Holiday, Carlyle | WR | 6-2 | 217 | 10/04/1981 | 1 | Notre Dame |
| 80 | Johnson, Bryant | WR | 6-3 | 214 | 03/07/1981 | 3 | Penn State |
| 19 | McCoy, LeRon | WR | 6-1 | 205 | 01/24/1982 | 1 | Indiana (PA) |
| 86 | Stokes, Andy | TE | 6-5 | 245 | 06/02/1981 | 0 | William Penn |
| 86 | Walters, Troy | WR | 5-7 | 172 | 12/15/1976 | 6 | Stanford |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 92 | Berry, Bertrand | DE | 6-3 | 277 | 08/15/1975 | 8 | Notre Dame |
| 93 | Bulman, Tim | DT | 6-3 | 290 | 10/31/1982 | 1 | Boston College |
| 70 | Clancy, Kendrick | DT | 6-1 | 305 | 09/17/1978 | 6 | Mississippi |
| 90 | Dockett, Darnell | DT | 6-4 | 293 | 05/27/1981 | 2 | Florida State |
| 95 | King, Kenny | DE | 6-3 | 285 | 04/23/1981 | 1 | Alabama |
| 62 | King, Tyler | DE | 6-6 | 262 | 09/05/1980 | 0 | Connecticut |
| 91 | Moore, Langston | DT | 6-1 | 303 | 07/17/1981 | 2 | South Carolina |
| 56 | Okeafor, Chike | DE | 6-5 | 265 | 03/27/1976 | 7 | Purdue |
| 97 | Pace, Calvin | DE | 6-4 | 270 | 10/28/1980 | 3 | Wake Forest |
| 96 | Palepoi, Anton | DE | 6-3 | 283 | 01/19/1978 | 4 | UNLV |
| 94 | Smith, Antonio | DE | 6-3 | 274 | 10/21/1981 | 2 | Oklahoma State |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 41 | Brewer, Jack | S | 6-0 | 194 | 01/08/1979 | 4 | Minnesota |
| 33 | Carter, Dyshod | CB | 5-10 | 194 | 06/18/1978 | 3 | Kansas State |
| 47 | Francisco, Aaron | S | 6-2 | 212 | 07/05/1983 | 1 | Brigham Young |
| 25 | Green, Eric | CB | 5-11 | 197 | 03/16/1982 | 1 | Virginia Tech |
| 34 | Griffith, Robert | S | 6-0 | 200 | 11/30/1970 | 12 | San Diego State |
| 27 | Macklin, David | CB | 5-10 | 200 | 07/14/1978 | 6 | Penn State |
| 20 | Reid, Lamont | CB | 5-11 | 190 | 05/04/1982 | 1 | N.C. State |
| 21 | Rolle, Antrel | CB | 6-0 | 206 | 12/16/1982 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| 35 | Shazor, Ernest | S | 6-4 | 231 | 07/04/1983 | 1 | Michigan |
| 26 | Tate, Robert | CB | 5-11 | 193 | 10/19/1973 | 8 | Cincinnati |
| 24 | Wilson, Adrian | S | 6-3 | 230 | 10/12/1979 | 5 | N.C. State |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 55 | Blackstock, Darryl | LB | 6-3 | 240 | 05/30/1983 | 1 | Virginia |
| 58 | Dansby, Karlos | LB | 6-4 | 243 | 11/03/1981 | 2 | Auburn |
| 51 | Darling, James | LB | 6-1 | 247 | 12/29/1974 | 9 | Washington State |
| 54 | Hayes, Gerald | LB | 6-1 | 241 | 10/10/1980 | 2 | Pittsburgh |
| 57 | Huff, Orlando | LB | 6-3 | 250 | 08/14/1978 | 5 | Fresno State |
| 53 | Keys, Isaac | LB | 6-3 | 245 | 06/06/1978 | 2 | Morehouse |
| 52 | Mitchell, Lance | LB | 6-2 | 247 | 10/09/1981 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 3 | Novak, Nick | K | 6-0 | 190 | 08/21/1981 | 1 | Maryland |
| 10 | Player, Scott | P | 6-1 | 211 | 12/17/1969 | 8 | Florida State |
| 1 | Rackers, Neil | K | 6-1 | 207 | 08/16/1976 | 6 | Illinois |

2005 RECORD: 6-10 | www.stlouisrams.com

# ST. LOUIS RAMS

NFC WEST #3

EDWARD JONES DOME
CAPACITY: 66,000 | TURF: ARTIFICIAL | TICKETS: 800-246-7267

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 4 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 3 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 4 |
| RECEIVERS | 4 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 2 |
| LINEBACKERS | 2 |
| SECONDARY | 2 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 2 |
| MANAGEMENT | 1 |

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Marc Bulger | LE | Leonard Little | P | Matt Turk |
| FB | Madison Hedgecock | LT | Jimmy Kennedy | PR | Marques Hagans |
| RB | Steven Jackson | RT | La'Roi Glover | K | Jeff Wilkins |
| LT | Orlando Pace | RE | Anthony Hargrove | KR | Brad Pyatt |
| LG | Claude Terrell | LLB | Pisa Tinoisamoa | | |
| C | Andy McCollum | MLB | Will Witherspoon | | |
| RG | Adam Timmerman | RLB | Dexter Coakley | | |
| RT | Alex Barron | LCB | Jerametrius Butler | | |
| TE | Joe Klopfenstein | RCB | Tye Hill | | |
| WR | Torry Holt | SS | Corey Chavous | | |
| WR | Isaac Bruce | FS | Oshiomogho Atogwe | | |

**ON THE RISE**

**PISA TINOISAMOA**
linebacker
He led a sorry defense in tackles after almost moving to safety.

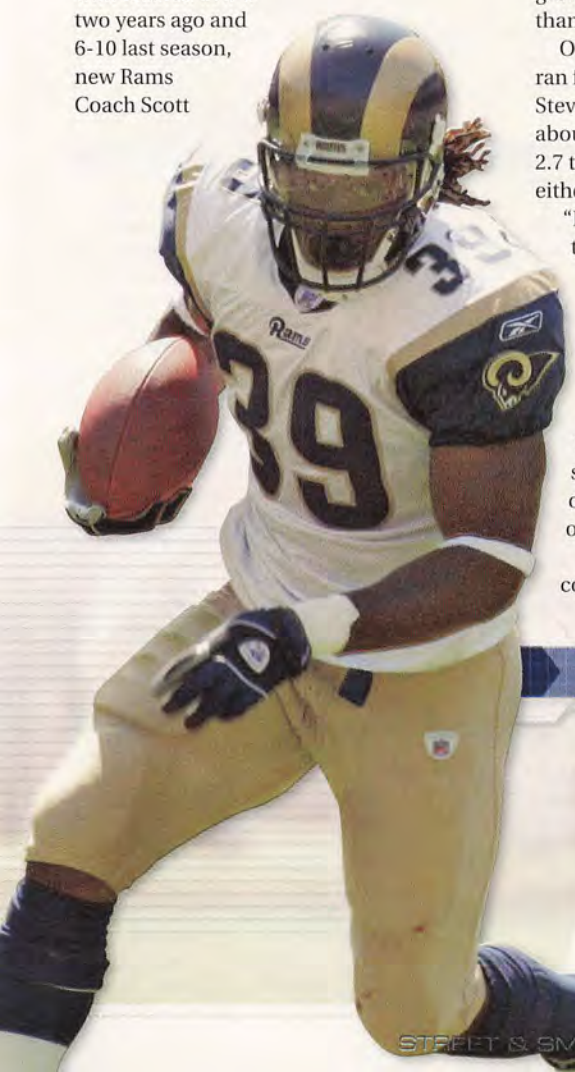
**FADING FAST**

**MARSHALL FAULK**
running back
His production has diminished four years in a row; one TD in '05.

# Keeping it simple

After years of complicated offensive schemes under Mike Martz, the Rams are looking to get back to basics with new Coach Scott Linehan.

After "The Greatest Show on Turf" under Mike Martz came down to earth with records of 8-8 two years ago and 6-10 last season, new Rams Coach Scott Linehan is left to pick up the pieces. To do it, Linehan says he will stay close to the ground, emphasizing the run much more than his predecessor did.



Only the Eagles, Raiders and Cardinals ran fewer times in 2005 than the Rams. Steven Jackson got to rush the ball for only about 16 times a game and got another 2.7 touches on receptions, not enough for either his taste or Linehan's.

"He's the guy I'm most excited about on the team," Linehan says about Jackson. "We're going to be balanced. He's going to carry a big load for us."

It's not that Martz's offense didn't remain productive even after the passing guru had to take a leave of absence last season with a bacterial infection of his heart valve. The Rams still ranked ninth in the NFL for total offense under interim coach Joe Vitt and only three NFC teams outscored them.

But Linehan, the former offensive coordinator in Minnesota and Miami, envisions a different way. For one thing, the new playbook will be considerably thinner.

"Mike's brilliant, probably a genius, as far as offense," Linehan says. "You can't deny his ability to dissect a defense with some of those things he did offensively. I think what happens, though, is you get caught up in doing things and changing, and being innovative and all that. And sometimes that can be too much for some players."

Linehan certainly isn't going to ignore receivers Torry Holt, Isaac Bruce and Kevin Curtis; he just wants to make certain Jackson gets more carries.

"If [Jackson] stays healthy, we've got a good-enough group up front where I think we can really have a great year running the ball," Linehan says. "We've got threats at receiver. I've always said 'If you've got a receiving corps that people have to defend, the running game [is] easy.' It really is."

Linehan's approach might be easier on quarterback Marc Bulger's health. Bulger played only half of last season because of a shoulder injury and concussion. Under Martz, Rams quarterbacks specialized in deep drops, which can be dangerous. Bulger has suffered shoulder injuries the last two seasons, but Linehan showed confidence in him by passing up Matt Leinart and Jay Cutler in the draft.

## THE BOOK ON ... STEVEN JACKSON

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Size, speed, power, good vision. He has small running back skills in a big running back body. He's pretty light on his feet, can change directions and has good ball skills. He can run through tackles, can wear down defenses. [Coach Scott] Linehan will do the Minnesota stuff. They will get in a one-back set and throw it around a little bit. He'll also do some of the stuff he did in Miami with [running backs] Ronnie Brown and Ricky Williams. They'll use Jackson and [running back Marshall] Faulk."

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TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; ROB HOLT / SPORTPICS

### FACT

St. Louis became only the second team since 1970 to score at least 10 points in the final 30 seconds of a game to tie or win the contest, scoring 10 points in 27 seconds against Houston in Week 11 to tie it at 27. The Rams then won on their first possession of overtime.

### STAT

With 1,331 receiving yards, Torry Holt became the first player in NFL history to have six consecutive 1,300-yard-receiving seasons.

### LOOK IT UP

Since 1999, the Rams have the best home record (42-14) and the best divisional record (34-14) in the NFL.

### 5-YEAR WINS

### RAMS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **GEORGE ALLEN** (5 YEARS) — **Record with Rams:** 49-19-4
2. **CHUCK KNOX** (5 YEARS) — **Record with Rams:** 57-20-1
3. **MIKE MARTZ** (6 YEARS) — **Record with Rams:** 56-36

### THE COUNT

**7**
Number of two-point conversions by Marshall Faulk last year, an NFL record.

**38-0**
St. Louis' record since 1995 when having at least one 100-yard rusher in a game.

**90.6**
Marc Bulger's career passer rating, sixth best in NFL history.

"I know one of his main objectives is to protect me," Bulger says of Linehan. "We're not going to run the ball on first and second down and throw it on third just to protect me. At the same time, I think he is going to be more selective in when we should take shots down the field."

Part of the simplification could be more no-huddle formations, allowing the quarterback to call plays at the line of scrimmage and preventing defenses from subbing. More of a ball-control offense with fewer than 36 turnovers should go a long way toward helping the 30th-ranked defense improve for new coordinator Jim Haslett.

"It was a lot of fun to watch those offenses go up and down the field," Linehan says. "I would hate to think that we're going to take a step back offensively. It may be a different way. Maybe a few more runs in there. Maybe a few more quick passes. Not as much of the hold the ball, hold the ball, throw it."

The Martz Rams were so good on offense that rookie quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick threw for 310 yards in his debut, but Linehan signed veteran Gus Frerotte to help everybody learn the new playbook. Frerotte followed Linehan from Minnesota to Miami.

Bruce caught only 36 passes compared to 102 for Holt, but the Rams were able to sign Bruce for his 13th season. Curtis caught 60 passes for six touchdowns to become the primary option opposite Holt. Shaun McDonald's 46 catches ranked him third on the team.

Linehan likes to utilize the tight end, so he drafted two prospects in Joe Klopfenstein and Dominique Byrd, traded holdover Brandon Manumaleuna and signed free-agent rookie Ed Nelson off the University of Connecticut basketball team.

The future of all-purpose back Marshall Faulk isn't clear after a season with only one

## DRAFT REPORT

With one of the best drafts, the Rams filled numerous holes across their roster. **Tye Hill** has top-notch coverage skills, but will need to overcome height limitations. **Joe Klopfenstein** and **Dominique Byrd** were added to upgrade the tight end position and free up the outside receivers. **Claude Wroten** was considered a late first-round talent, but dropped to the third due to character issues. **Jon Alston** lacks size but runs well and will compete for the weakside job as a rookie. **Victor Adeyanju** excels as a pass rusher and will provide the needed depth behind Leonard Little and Tony Hargrove. **Marques Hagans** was a quarterback at Virginia, but projects to wide receiver in St. Louis. **Tim McGarigle** is a competitive overachiever who made a ton of plays at Northwestern. **Mark Setterstrom** is an experienced 50-game starter who excels in the running game. **Tony Palmer** is a massive guard who can drive his opponent off the ball.

**GRADE: A-**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 15 | Hill, Tye | CB | 5-9 | 186 | Clemson |
| 2 | 14 | Klopfenstein, Joe | TE | 6-6 | 256 | Colorado |
| 3 | 4 | Wroten, Claude | DT | 6-2 | 303 | LSU |
| 3 | 13 | Alston, Jon | LB | 6-1 | 224 | Stanford |
| 3 | 29 | Byrd, Dominique | TE | 6-2 | 256 | USC |
| 4 | 16 | Adeyanju, Victor | DE | 6-4 | 275 | Indiana |
| 5 | 11 | Hagans, Marques | WR | 5-9 | 202 | Virginia |
| 7 | 13 | McGarigle, Tim | LB | 6-0 | 241 | Northwestern |
| 7 | 34 | Setterstrom, Mark | G | 6-4 | 315 | Minnesota |
| 7 | 35 | Palmer, Tony | G | 6-1 | 344 | Missouri |

### HE SAID IT:

**He [Coach Scott Linehan] didn't have to talk me into it. I think we hit it off. I like coaching, I like being involved.**
*—New Defensive Coordinator Jim Haslett on joining St. Louis' coaching staff*

### 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WEEK 1** vs. Denver | SEPT. 10 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 2** @ San Francisco | SEPT. 17 | 4:05 |
| **WEEK 3** @ Arizona | SEPT. 24 | 4:15 |
| **WEEK 4** vs. Detroit | OCT. 1 | 4:05 |
| ★ MUST-SEE GAME ★ *Lions Offensive Coordinator Mike Martz returns to the other sideline where he once directed "The Greatest Show on Turf" as the Rams' head coach.* | | |
| **WEEK 5** @ Green Bay | OCT. 8 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 6** vs. Seattle | OCT. 15 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 7** *OPEN DATE* | | |
| **WEEK 8** @ San Diego | OCT. 29 | 4:05 |
| **WEEK 9** vs. Kansas City | NOV. 5 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 10** @ Seattle | NOV. 12 | 4:15 |
| **WEEK 11** @ Carolina | NOV. 19 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 12** vs. San Francisco | NOV. 26 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 13** vs. Arizona | DEC. 3 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 14** vs. Chicago | DEC. 11 | 8:30 |
| **WEEK 15** @ Oakland | DEC. 17 | 4:15 |
| **WEEK 16** vs. Washington | DEC. 24 | 1:00 |
| **WEEK 17** @ Minnesota | DEC. 31 | 1:00 |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | L | 25-28 | at San Francisco |
| 09/18 | W | 17-12 | at Arizona |
| 09/25 | W | 31-27 | Tennessee |
| 10/02 | L | 24-44 | at New York Giants |
| 10/09 | L | 31-37 | Seattle |
| 10/17 | L | 28-45 | at Indianapolis |
| 10/23 | W | 28-17 | New Orleans |
| 10/30 | W | 24-21 | Jacksonville |
| 11/13 | L | 16-31 | at Seattle |
| 11/20 | L | 28-38 | Arizona |
| 11/27 | W | 33-27 | at Houston |
| 12/04 | L | 9-24 | Washington |
| 12/11 | L | 13-27 | at Minnesota |
| 12/18 | L | 16-17 | Philadelphia |
| 12/24 | L | 20-24 | San Francisco |
| 01/01 | W | 20-10 | at Dallas |

WON **6**, LOST **10**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S. Jackson | 254 | 1046 | 4.1 | 51 | 8 |
| M. Faulk | 65 | 292 | 4.5 | 20 | 0 |
| Cason | 10 | 65 | 6.5 | 14 | 1 |
| Fitzpatrick | 14 | 64 | 4.6 | 14t | 2 |
| Bulger | 9 | 29 | 3.2 | 9 | 0 |
| Harris | 13 | 21 | 1.6 | 10 | 1 |
| McDonald | 1 | 7 | 7.0 | 7 | 0 |
| Martin | 9 | 6 | 0.7 | 9 | 0 |
| Curtis | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5t | 1 |
| Holt | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Manumaleuna | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Hedgecock | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wilkins | 1 | -4 | -4.0 | -4 | 0 |
| **Rams** | **380** | **1535** | **4.0** | **51** | **13** |
| **Opponents** | **459** | **2178** | **4.7** | **73t** | **22** |

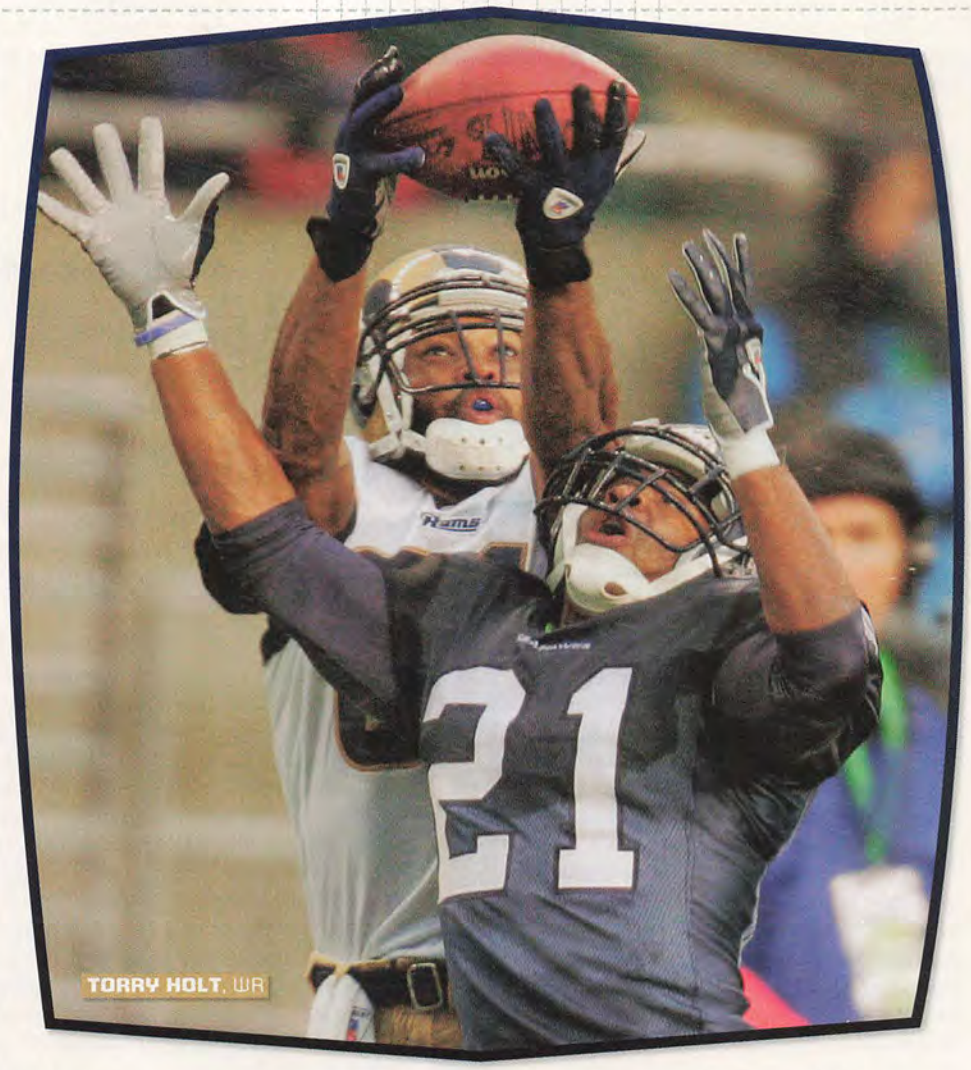
| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Holt | 102 | 1331 | 13.0 | 44 | 9 |
| Curtis | 60 | 801 | 13.4 | 83t | 6 |
| McDonald | 46 | 523 | 11.4 | 31 | 0 |
| M. Faulk | 44 | 291 | 6.6 | 18 | 1 |
| S. Jackson | 43 | 320 | 7.4 | 27 | 2 |
| Bruce | 36 | 525 | 14.6 | 46t | 3 |
| Looker | 23 | 237 | 10.3 | 23 | 0 |
| Manumaleuna | 13 | 129 | 9.9 | 33 | 1 |
| Hedgecock | 9 | 69 | 7.7 | 15 | 0 |
| Cleeland | 5 | 17 | 3.4 | 9t | 1 |
| Harris | 4 | 34 | 8.5 | 17 | 0 |
| R. Williams | 3 | 21 | 7.0 | 12 | 0 |
| Bulger | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 |
| Cason | 1 | 11 | 11.0 | 11 | 0 |
| Robinson | 1 | 28 | 28.0 | 28 | 0 |
| Thompson | 1 | 13 | 13.0 | 13 | 0 |
| **Rams** | **392** | **4351** | **11.1** | **83t** | **23** |
| **Opponents** | **314** | **3619** | **11.5** | **52** | **26** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bulger | 287 | 192 | 2297 | 14 | 9 |
| Martin | 177 | 124 | 1277 | 5 | 7 |
| Fitzpatrick | 135 | 76 | 777 | 4 | 8 |
| **Rams** | **599** | **392** | **4351** | **23** | **24** |
| **Opponents** | **507** | **314** | **3619** | **26** | **13** |

**SACKS**

Little 9.5, Hargrove 6.5, Archuleta 3.5, Green 3, Kennedy 3, T. Jackson 2.5, Ivy 2, Atogwe 1, Claiborne 0.5

**Rams 41, Opponents 46**




KEVIN TERRELL / WIRE IMAGE.COM

touchdown (via receiving) and just 65 rushes. In the offseason, Linehan added third-down specialist Tony Fisher from Green Bay.

Although the offensive line has some age in right guard Adam Timmerman and center Andy McCollum, it also has youth in right tackle Alex Barron and left guard Claude Terrell, both starters as rookies. Left tackle Orlando Pace remains the anchor. Veteran Todd Steussie joins Ben Noll and Larry Turner as backups. Richie Incognito might also help if a balky knee allows.

The Rams spent most of their offseason shoring up the defense, but can only hope to be competitive. Haslett would like to be more aggressive and incorporate more Steelers-style blitzes, but he doesn't appear to have the personnel to go to a 3-4 base.

The Rams lost defensive tackles Ryan Pickett and Damione Lewis in free agency and signed La'Roi Glover, trading youth for

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Rams)*

"New Defensive Coordinator Jim Haslett got some help and he's a good coach. [Defensive tackle] La'Roi Glover was a great acquisition. He'll fit better there than in Dallas. Corey Chavous was a good acquisition at safety. Will Witherspoon was a great acquisition. He can play the middle [linebacker position]. The rookie cornerback, Tye Hill, could help right away. ...

"Offensively, [quarterback Marc] Bulger has to stay healthy. They're a year older in the receiving corps. [Running back Marshall] Faulk is probably done. Even if he comes back, it will be as a role player. Their offensive line is still pretty good. ...

"They're trying to beef the defense up and gradually add offensive weapons. It's not going to be 'The Greatest Show on Turf' anymore. [Coach Scott Linehan] just doesn't have the weapons. [But] they could go from 6-10 to 9-7 in that division."

experience but not size. They have to hope former first-round pick Jimmy Kennedy blossoms at the position to take the pressure off effective, though undersized, pass-rushing ends Leonard Little and Anthony Hargrove. Second-year prospects Clifford Dukes and Jeremy Calahan join Brian Howard and Brandon Green in the fight for backup jobs. Rookies Claude Wroten and Victor Adeyanju are welcome additions, although Wroten must put recent legal problems and accusations of laziness behind him. The Rams don't need lazy players.

The signing of speedy linebacker Will Witherspoon from Carolina was an outstanding defensive addition and despite his size (only 6-1 and 231 pounds), he will move into the middle, where the recently released Chris Claiborne was last year.

Witherspoon will join the team's leading tackler, Pisa Tinoisamoa, as the only two certain starters at linebacker, with Brandon Chillar, Dexter Coakley and Raonall Smith (picked up from Minnesota) all vying for jobs. Coakley is coming off serious ankle and leg injuries. Mike Goolsby, Drew Wahlroos and Jeremy Loyd are backups. Third-round pick Jon Alston from Stanford is a speedy prospect with a chance to start right away and seventh-round choice Tim McGarigle set the NCAA's all-time record for tackles at Northwestern.

The Rams lost hard-hitting strong safety Adam Archuleta to Washington and hope to get better pass coverage out of replacement Corey Chavous (Vikings). They expect second-year free safety Oshiomogho Atogwe to replace departed Mike Furrey.

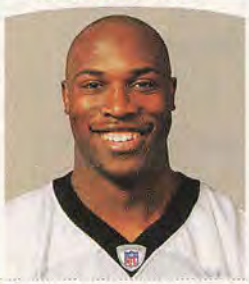
Top draft choice Tye Hill should start at cornerback, where Travis Fisher and Jerametrius Butler both ended up on injured reserve last season. Haslett brought cornerback Fakhir Brown from New Orleans to challenge for playing time with holdovers DeJuan Groce and Ron Bartell. Chris Johnson and Dwaine Carpenter are other backups.

The Rams added former Miami punter Matt Turk. Kicker Jeff Wilkins is solid and the Rams signed former Colts return specialist Brad Pyatt to compete with Dane Looker, Chris Johnson and McDonald. Fifth-round pick Marques Hagans also has returned punts and could be the answer there.

COURTESY NFL

FINAL GRADE: 75 STOCK STEADY REPORT

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS



- **Will Witherspoon**, LB (CAR)
- **Corey Chavous**, DB (MIN)
- **La'Roi Glover**, DT (DAL)
- **Fakhir Brown**, CB (NO)
- **Tony Fisher**, RB (GB)
- **Gus Frerotte**, QB (MIA)
- **Matt Turk**, P (MIA)
- **Raonall Smith**, LB (MIN)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Damione Lewis**, DT (CAR)
- **Adam Archuleta**, DB (WAS)
- **Corey Ivy**, CB (BAL)
- **Arlen Harris**, RB (DET)
- **Ryan Pickett**, DT (GB)
- **Matt Morgan**, OL (BUF)
- **Mike Furrey**, DB/WR (DET)
- **Rex Tucker**, OG (DET)
- **Chris Johnson**, DB (KC)
- **Tyoka Jackson**, DT (DET)
- **Brandon Manumaleuna**, TE (trade, SD)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 348.2 | 9 |
| Rushing | 95.9 | 22 |
| Passing | 252.3 | 4 |
| Scoring | 363 | 11 |
| Punt Returns | 5.8 | 29 |
| Kick Returns | 21.4 | 23 |
| Red Zone TD % | 47.1 | 19 |
| Total Defense | 350.1 | 30 |
| Against Rush | 136.1 | 28 |
| Against Pass | 214.0 | 23 |
| Points Allowed | 429 | 31 |
| Interceptions | 13 | 24 |
| Sacks | 41 | 8t |
| Turnover Diff. | -10 | 28t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 314 | 82 | 209 | 23 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 51 | 226 | 24 | 19 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | 23 | 1 | 3 |

## RAMS ROSTER

**Scott Linehan, head coach**; **Rick Venturi**, asst. head coach/linebackers; **Jim Haslett**, def. coord.; **Greg Olson**, off. coord.; **Brian Baker**, def. line; **Paul Boudreau**, off. line; **Jim Chaney**, asst. off. line; **Henry Ellard**, wide receivers; **Judd Garrett**, tight ends; **Bob Ligashesky**, special teams; **Ron Milus**, asst. secondary; **Wayne Moses**, running backs; **Doug Nussmeier**, quarterbacks; **Willy Robinson**, secondary

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | Bulger, Marc | QB | 6-3 | 215 | 04/05/1977 | 4 | West Virginia |
| 12 | Fitzpatrick, Ryan | QB | 6-2 | 221 | 11/24/1982 | 1 | Harvard |
| 11 | Frerotte, Gus | QB | 6-3 | 233 | 07/31/1971 | 12 | Tulsa |
| 9 | Smoker, Jeff | QB | 6-3 | 223 | 06/13/1981 | 0 | Michigan State |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 70 | Barron, Alex | T | 6-7 | 320 | 09/28/1982 | 1 | Florida State |
| 72 | Hilliard, Jason | T | 6-6 | 328 | 06/29/1981 | 1 | Louisville |
| 68 | Incognito, Richie | C | 6-3 | 305 | 07/05/1983 | 0 | Nebraska |
| 67 | McCollum, Andy | C | 6-4 | 300 | 06/02/1970 | 11 | Toledo |
| 64 | Noll, Ben | G | 6-4 | 300 | 11/14/1981 | 2 | Pennsylvania |
| 76 | Pace, Orlando | T | 6-7 | 325 | 11/04/1975 | 9 | Ohio State |
| 60 | Saipaia, Blaine | G | 6-3 | 310 | 08/25/1978 | 2 | Colorado State |
| 79 | Steussie, Todd | T | 6-6 | 320 | 12/01/1970 | 12 | California |
|  | Strojny, Drew | T | 6-7 | 327 | 06/30/81 | 1 | Duke |
| 75 | Terrell, Claude | G | 6-2 | 343 | 04/20/1982 | 1 | New Mexico |
| 62 | Timmerman, Adam | G | 6-4 | 310 | 08/14/1971 | 11 | South Dakota St. |
| 63 | Turner, Larry | C | 6-2 | 290 | 03/08/1982 | 2 | Eastern Kentucky |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 28 | Faulk, Marshall | RB | 5-10 | 211 | 02/26/1973 | 12 | San Diego State |
| 30 | Fisher, Tony | RB | 6-1 | 222 | 10/12/1979 | 4 | Notre Dame |
| 44 | Hedgecock, Madison | RB | 6-3 | 266 | 08/27/1981 | 1 | North Carolina |
| 39 | Jackson, Steven | RB | 6-2 | 231 | 07/22/1983 | 2 | Oregon State |
| 45 | Massey, Chris | RB | 6-0 | 245 | 08/21/1979 | 4 | Marshall |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 80 | Bruce, Isaac | WR | 6-0 | 188 | 11/10/1972 | 12 | Memphis |
| 16 | Carter, Jeremy | WR | 6-1 | 180 | 11/20/1979 | 0 | Western Carolina |
| 48 | Collins, Jerome | TE | 6-4 | 267 | 08/18/1982 | 1 | Notre Dame |
| 83 | Curtis, Kevin | WR | 5-11 | 186 | 07/17/1978 | 3 | Utah State |
| 81 | Holt, Torry | WR | 6-0 | 190 | 06/05/1976 | 7 | N.C. State |
| 89 | Looker, Dane | WR | 6-0 | 194 | 04/05/1976 | 4 | Washington |
| 84 | McDonald, Shaun | WR | 5-10 | 183 | 06/13/1981 | 3 | Arizona State |
| 19 | Middleton, Brandon | WR | 5-10 | 190 | 01/02/1981 | 0 | Houston |
| 88 | Pyatt, Brad | WR | 5-11 | 195 | 04/16/1980 | 2 | Northern Colorado |
|  | Stubblefield, Taylor | WR | 5-11 | 172 | 01/21/1982 | 1 | Purdue |
| 17 | Thompson, Dominique | WR | 6-1 | 190 | 12/28/1982 | 1 | William & Mary |
| 49 | Trafford, Rod | TE | 6-3 | 250 | 11/28/1978 | 1 | South Carolina |
| 87 | Walker, Aaron | TE | 6-6 | 252 | 03/14/1980 | 2 | Florida |
| 82 | Williams, Darius | TE | 6-6 | 270 | 03/16/1982 | 0 | Georgia Tech |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 90 | Calahan, Jeremy | DT | 6-3 | 295 | 07/07/1983 | 1 | Rice |
| 96 | Dukes, Clifford | DE | 6-3 | 258 | 06/26/1981 | 0 | Michigan State |
| 97 | Glover, La'Roi | DT | 6-2 | 282 | 07/04/1974 | 10 | San Diego State |
| 93 | Green, Brandon | DE | 6-3 | 264 | 09/05/1980 | 2 | Rice |
| 95 | Hargrove, Anthony | DE | 6-3 | 269 | 07/20/1983 | 2 | Georgia Tech |
| 98 | Howard, Brian | DT | 6-4 | 278 | 09/09/1981 | 2 | Idaho |
| 73 | Kennedy, Jimmy | DT | 6-4 | 320 | 11/15/1979 | 3 | Penn State |
| 91 | Little, Leonard | DE | 6-3 | 261 | 10/19/1974 | 8 | Tennessee |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 20 | Anderson, Dwight | CB | 5-10 | 172 | 07/05/1981 | 2 | South Dakota |
| 21 | Atogwe, O.J. | S | 5-11 | 203 | 06/28/1981 | 1 | Stanford |
| 32 | Bartell, Ronald | CB | 6-1 | 208 | 02/22/1982 | 1 | Howard |
| 26 | Brown, Fakhir | CB | 5-11 | 192 | 09/21/1977 | 6 | Grambling State |
| 23 | Butler, Jerametrius | CB | 5-10 | 181 | 11/28/1978 | 4 | Kansas State |
| 35 | Carpenter, Dwaine | S | 6-1 | 203 | 11/04/1976 | 3 | N.C. A&T |
| 42 | Carter, Jerome | S | 5-11 | 219 | 10/25/1982 | 1 | Florida State |
| 25 | Chavous, Corey | S | 6-1 | 206 | 01/15/1976 | 8 | Vanderbilt |
| 22 | Fisher, Travis | CB | 5-10 | 189 | 09/12/1979 | 4 | UCF |
| 24 | Groce, DeJuan | CB | 5-10 | 192 | 02/17/1980 | 3 | Nebraska |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 47 | Brooks, Jamal | LB | 6-2 | 238 | 11/09/1976 | 1 | Hampton |
| 54 | Chillar, Brandon | LB | 6-3 | 253 | 10/21/1982 | 2 | UCLA |
| 55 | Claiborne, Chris | LB | 6-3 | 255 | 07/26/1978 | 7 | USC |
| 52 | Coakley, Dexter | LB | 5-10 | 236 | 10/20/1972 | 9 | Appalachian State |
| 57 | Faulk, Trev | LB | 6-3 | 254 | 08/06/1981 | 2 | LSU |
| 53 | Goolsby, Mike | LB | 6-4 | 242 | 09/10/1982 | 1 | Notre Dame |
| 56 | Loyd, Jeremy | LB | 6-2 | 235 | 07/30/1980 | 2 | Iowa State |
| 56 | Smith, Raonall | LB | 6-2 | 244 | 10/22/1978 | 3 | Washington State |
| 50 | Tinoisamoa, Pisa | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 07/15/1981 | 3 | Hawaii |
| 58 | Wahlroos, Drew | LB | 6-3 | 235 | 06/07/1980 | 2 | Colorado |
| 51 | Witherspoon, Will | LB | 6-1 | 231 | 08/19/1980 | 4 | Georgia |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 1 | Turk, Matt | P | 6-5 | 243 | 06/16/1968 | 10 | Wis.-Whitewater |
| 14 | Wilkins, Jeff | K | 6-2 | 205 | 04/19/1972 | 12 | Youngstown State |

2005 RECORD: 4-12 | www.sf49ers.com

# SAN FRANCISCO

## 49ERS

NFC WEST #4

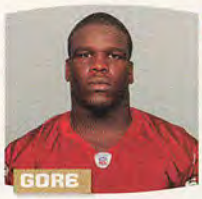
MONSTER PARK
CAPACITY: 69,732 | TURF: GRASS | TICKETS: 415-656-4900

### POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| QUARTERBACKS | 2 |
| RUNNING BACKS | 2 |
| RECEIVERS | 2 |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | 3 |
| LINEBACKERS | 2 |
| SECONDARY | 2 |
| SPECIAL TEAMS | 2 |
| MANAGEMENT | 2 |

### PROJECTED STARTERS

| OFFENSE | | DEFENSE | | SPECIAL TEAMS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Alex Smith | LE | Bryant Young | P | Andy Lee |
| FB | Chris Hetherington | NT | Anthony Adams | PR | Rasheed Marshall |
| RB | Frank Gore | RE | Marques Douglas | H | Joe Nedney |
| LT | Jonas Jennings | LLB | Brandon Moore | HR | Maurice Hicks |
| LG | Larry Allen | ILB | Jeff Ulbrich | | |
| C | Jeremy Newberry | ILB | Derek Smith | | |
| RG | Justin Smiley | RLB | Manny Lawson | | |
| RT | Adam Snyder | LCB | Walt Harris | | |
| TE | Vernon Davis | RCB | Shawntae Spencer | | |
| WR | Antonio Bryant | SS | Tony Parrish | | |
| WR | Arnaz Battle | FS | Ben Emanuel | | |




### ON THE RISE

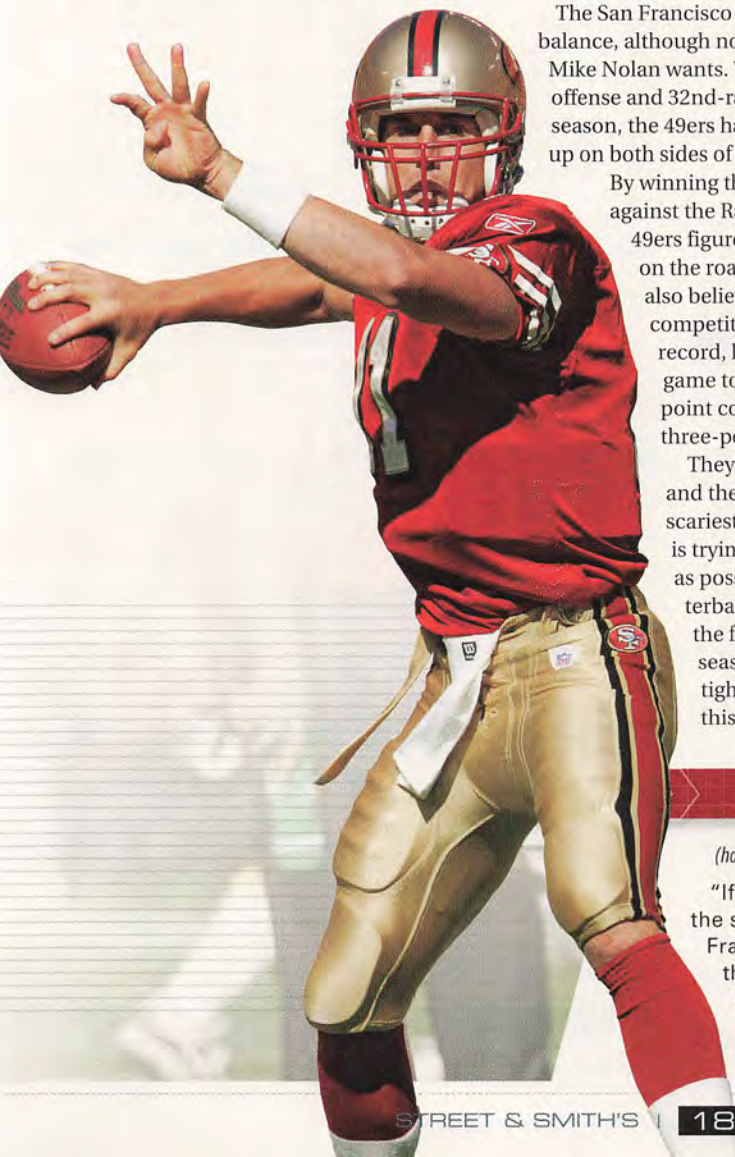
**FRANK GORE**
running back
His 4.8-yard average as a rookie should earn him the job this year.

### FADING FAST

**LARRY ALLEN**
offensive guard
Signed from the Cowboys and, although still mean, he has seen better days.

# Building blocks

Protecting second-year QB Alex Smith with a better offensive line is Priority No. 1 in a heavy-duty rebuilding job in San Francisco.



The San Francisco 49ers have perfect balance, although not the kind Coach Mike Nolan wants. With the 32nd-ranked offense and 32nd-ranked defense last season, the 49ers have nowhere to go but up on both sides of the ball.

By winning their final two games against the Rams and Texans, the 49ers figure they are already on the road to recovery. They also believe they were more competitive than their 4-12 record, losing a one-point game to Jacksonville, a two-point contest to Seattle and a three-point game to Dallas.

They beat the Rams twice and the NFC West is not the scariest of divisions, so Nolan is trying to rebuild as quickly as possible. Getting quarterback Alex Smith with the first overall pick last season and landing top tight end Vernon Davis this year is only a start.

Smith struggled through a knee injury as a rookie and started only seven games, but in the final two he was 12-of-16 against the Rams and then threw his only touchdown pass of the season against the Texans, providing a hint of momentum. The 49ers added some veteran leadership when they acquired Trent Dilfer from the Browns for reserve QB Ken Dorsey and a seventh-round draft pick. Cody Pickett also started two games last season and Jesse Palmer was signed as a free agent.

"I'm not expecting Alex or anyone else to take us to the promised land alone," Nolan says. "It's important to surround that position with good players. I don't care [if] it was [Troy] Aikman, [Joe] Montana, go down the list. They all had a good surrounding cast."

The cast starts up front, which is why the signing of free-agent guard Larry Allen from Dallas helps send a message. In his brief appearances, Smith was sacked 29 times—too many for a quarterback with only 165 pass attempts.

Allen will be 35 in November and is on the downside of his career, but is one of the great players in the league. He says he came back to his California roots to "help the young guys out, give them a nasty streak."

"It's always good to have a veteran of Larry's type say, 'It's OK to be mean and nasty and do what you've got to do,'"

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## THE BOOK ON ... ALEX SMITH

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"If you put him in Pittsburgh when [Ben] Roethlisberger came out, the same thing happens. They go 15-1. You put Roethlisberger in San Francisco, the same thing happens. They go 4-12. You can't blame the quarterback. When you don't have anybody to get open and can't run the ball, you're going to look like you never played the position. I think he has better skills than Roethlisberger. ... But you're never going to find out. He'll get beat up for four years."

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY NFL; BRUCE SCHWARTZMAN

### FACT

The 49ers have lost 67 games the last seven seasons (1999-2005). That's only five games fewer than they lost over the previous 18 (1981-1998).

### STAT

Alex Smith's 40.8-percent passer rating was the lowest by a No. 1 overall draft pick in his rookie season (min. 50 attempts) since Terry Bradshaw's 30.4-percent mark in 1970.

### LOOK IT UP

The 49ers ranked last in the NFL in both total offense and total defense last season, joining the 1982 Houston Oilers, 1987 Atlanta Falcons and 1999 Cleveland Browns as the only teams since the merger to do so.

### 5-YEAR WINS

### 49ERS' BEST-EVER COACHES

1. **BILL WALSH** (10 YEARS) — **Record with 49ers:** 102-63-1
2. **GEORGE SEIFERT** (8 YEARS) — **Record with 49ers:** 108-35
3. **STEVE MARIUCCI** (6 YEARS) — **Record with 49ers:** 60-43

### THE COUNT

**108**
Punts by the 49ers in 2005, the highest total in the NFL.

**78**
The number of San Francisco drives that went three-and-out last season, the most in the league.

**150**
Attempts it took quarterback Alex Smith to throw his first career touchdown pass.

Nolan says. "Larry has the mind-set everyone in the league should have."

Allen will start at his familiar left-guard spot, allowing last year's starter, Justin Smiley, to move back to right guard. With Jeremy Newberry likely returning from a knee injury, versatile Eric Heitmann and second-year player David Baas, who also gained valuable starting time as a rookie, have the 49ers hoping they're solid up the middle at center.

At tackle, things are shakier. Nolan expects Jonas Jennings to be back from shoulder and knee surgery to man the left side and Adam Snyder to move from left to right and challenge Kwame Harris.

The offense will be adjusting from former coordinator Mike McCarthy to Norv Turner, whose work with a young Aikman made such an impression that the former Dallas star chose Turner to present him for induction to the NFL Hall of Fame this summer.

The 49ers traded leading receiver Brandon Lloyd to

GREG TROTT / WIRE IMAGE.COM

## DRAFT REPORT

NFL DRAFT 2006

Selected at No. 6 overall, **Vernon Davis** is an athletic tight end who will be Alex Smith's top target this season and compete with Reggie Bush to be the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year. In the pick acquired from Denver, the 49ers added **Manny Lawson** to play one of the linebacker positions vacated by Julian Peterson and Andre Carter. **Brandon Williams** and **Michael Robinson** were drafted to upgrade the wide-receiver spots. Robinson will need to make the move from quarterback, the position he played at Penn State. **Parys Haralson** is a high-effort pass rusher who could line up opposite Lawson as a rookie. **Delanie Walker** struggled with academics, but did it all at Division II Central Missouri State as a receiver, runner and return man. **Marcus Hudson**, who can play safety or cornerback, plays the ball well in the air. **Melvin Oliver** provides much-needed depth at defensive end. **Vickiel Vaughn** will spend his rookie season on the practice squad.

GRADE: **B**

### 2006 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | Davis, Vernon | TE | 6-3 | 256 | Maryland |
| 1 | 22 | Lawson, Manny | LB | 6-5 | 240 | N.C. State |
| 3 | 20 | Williams, Brandon | WR | 5-11 | 180 | Wisconsin |
| 4 | 3 | Robinson, Michael | WR | 6-1 | 226 | Penn State |
| 5 | 7 | Haralson, Parys | DE | 6-0 | 248 | Tennessee |
| 6 | 6 | Walker, Delanie | WR | 6-1 | 241 | UTEP |
| 6 | 23 | Hudson, Marcus | CB | 6-1 | 193 | N.C. State |
| 6 | 28 | Oliver, Melvin | DE | 6-3 | 279 | LSU |
| 7 | 46 | Vaughn, Vickiel | S | 5-11 | 208 | Arkansas |

## 2006 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 1 @ Arizona | SEPT. 10 | 4:15 |
| WEEK 2 vs. St. Louis | SEPT. 17 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 3 vs. Philadelphia | SEPT. 24 | 4:15 |
| WEEK 4 @ Kansas City | OCT. 1 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 5 vs. Oakland | OCT. 8 | 4:05 |
| ★ MUST-SEE GAME ★ | | |
| *The last two Battles of the Bay (2000 and 2002) went to overtime. Fired Oakland Coach Norv Turner now directs the 49ers' offense.* | | |
| WEEK 6 vs. San Diego | OCT. 15 | 4:15 |
| WEEK 7 *OPEN DATE* | | |
| WEEK 8 @ Chicago | OCT. 29 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 9 vs. Minnesota | NOV. 5 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 10 @ Detroit | NOV. 12 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 11 vs. Seattle | NOV. 19 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 12 @ St. Louis | NOV. 26 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 13 @ New Orleans | DEC. 3 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 14 vs. Green Bay | DEC. 10 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 15 @ Seattle | DEC. 14 | 8:00 |
| WEEK 16 vs. Arizona | DEC. 24 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 17 @ Denver | DEC. 31 | 4:15 |

## 2005 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | W | 28-25 | St. Louis |
| 09/18 | L | 3-42 | at Philadelphia |
| 09/25 | L | 31-34 | Dallas |
| 10/02 | L | 14-31 | at Arizona |
| 10/09 | L | 3-28 | Indianapolis |
| 10/23 | L | 17-52 | at Washington |
| 10/30 | W | 15-10 | Tampa Bay |
| 11/06 | L | 6-24 | New York Giants |
| 11/13 | L | 9-17 | at Chicago |
| 11/20 | L | 25-27 | Seattle |
| 11/27 | L | 22-33 | at Tennessee |
| 12/04 | L | 10-17 | Arizona |
| 12/11 | L | 3-41 | at Seattle |
| 12/18 | L | 9-10 | at Jacksonville |
| 12/24 | W | 24-20 | at St. Louis |
| 01/01 | W | 20-17 | Houston |

WON **4**, LOST **12**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gore | 127 | 608 | 4.8 | 72t | 3 |
| Barlow | 176 | 581 | 3.3 | 29 | 3 |
| Hicks | 59 | 308 | 5.2 | 73t | 3 |
| A. Smith | 30 | 103 | 3.4 | 19 | 0 |
| Pickett | 13 | 42 | 3.2 | 12 | 0 |
| Rattay | 7 | 18 | 2.6 | 13 | 0 |
| Battle | 8 | 11 | 1.4 | 9 | 0 |
| Dorsey | 4 | 11 | 2.8 | 6 | 0 |
| Jackson | 2 | 11 | 5.5 | 11 | 0 |
| Hetherington | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| Marshall | 1 | -7 | -7.0 | -7 | 0 |
| **49ers** | **428** | **1689** | **3.9** | **73t** | **9** |
| **Opponents** | **486** | **1832** | **3.8** | **40** | **19** |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lloyd | 48 | 733 | 15.3 | 89t | 5 |
| Battle | 32 | 363 | 11.3 | 39 | 3 |
| Barlow | 31 | 241 | 7.8 | 24 | 0 |
| Morton | 21 | 288 | 13.7 | 30 | 0 |
| Gore | 15 | 131 | 8.7 | 47 | 0 |
| Hicks | 12 | 47 | 3.9 | 11 | 0 |
| Jackson | 10 | 67 | 6.7 | 12 | 0 |
| Jones | 9 | 76 | 8.4 | 21 | 0 |
| McAddley | 7 | 125 | 17.9 | 38 | 0 |
| Bajema | 5 | 54 | 10.8 | 24 | 0 |
| Hetherington | 5 | 26 | 5.2 | 11 | 0 |
| Bush | 3 | 21 | 7.0 | 10 | 0 |
| T. Smith | 3 | 7 | 2.3 | 6 | 0 |
| Beasley | 2 | 12 | 6.0 | 6 | 0 |
| Marshall | 1 | -1 | -1.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **49ers** | **204** | **2190** | **10.7** | **89t** | **8** |
| **Opponents** | **374** | **4620** | **12.4** | **78t** | **28** |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Smith | 165 | 84 | 875 | 1 | 11 |
| Rattay | 97 | 56 | 667 | 5 | 6 |
| Dorsey | 90 | 48 | 481 | 2 | 2 |
| Pickett | 35 | 14 | 140 | 0 | 2 |
| Battle | 2 | 2 | 27 | 0 | 0 |
| **49ers** | **389** | **204** | **2190** | **8** | **21** |
| **Opponents** | **576** | **374** | **4620** | **28** | **16** |

**SACKS**

Young 8, Moore 5, Carter 4.5, Peterson 3, A. Adams 2.5, M. Adams 1, Douglas 1, D. Johnson 1, Emanuel 0.5, Hall 0.5

**49ers 28, Opponents 48**

KIRBY LEE / WIRE IMAGE.COM

Washington for third- and fourth-round draft picks. They hope it's addition by subtraction in a locker room that didn't have much patience with Lloyd's self-centered personality. Former Dallas and Cleveland receiver Antonio Bryant arrives with his own issues, including once tossing a jersey back at Cowboys Coach Bill Parcells.

After trading former first-round draft pick Rashaun Woods to San Diego for cornerback Sammy Davis, the 49ers need more help at receiver than Bryant. Arnaz Battle started half a season opposite Lloyd. Bryan Gilmore was signed from Miami in free agency. Draft choices Brandon Williams and Delanie Walker, Jason McAddley and second-year players Rasheed Marshall, Otis Amey and Marcus Maxwell need to develop fast.

In top draft choice Davis, the 49ers got a tight end who is faster than their wide receivers. Eric Johnson missed last season with a foot injury, and Terry Jones and Billy Bajema didn't come close to making up for Johnson's 82 catches to lead the team in 2004. Johnson also missed 2003 with an injury, so Davis should start immediately at a position the 49ers like to exploit.

Frank Gore provided a much-needed spark at running back as a rookie, averaging 4.8 yards a carry and beating out Kevan Barlow, who averaged only 3.3 yards before injuring a knee. Maurice Hicks was also effective, averaging 5.2 yards in more limited use. With fullback Chris Hetherington winning the blocking job and reliable "coach-on-the-field" Terry Jackson still available, Nolan's backfield looks presentable. Penn State quarterback Michael Robinson was added in the fourth round as a possible running back or receiver.

Nolan lost stalwarts Andre Carter and Julian Peterson on defense, but the re-signing of underrated inside linebacker Derek Smith and the return of Bryant Young leaves the coach a nucleus to continue the team's transition to the 3-4 base.

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the 49ers)*

"Worse than Arizona. They have no clue what they're doing. It all starts with the owner, John York, who doesn't know who to listen to. The front office is too young, not ready for their jobs. [Coach] Mike Nolan is still feeling his way and has an average staff. ...

"The quarterback [Alex Smith] is going to be like [Houston's] David Carr. He's going to get the stuffing kicked out of him. He has no weapons on offense unless the rookie tight end [Vernon Davis] is Superman. The line is very average. [Offensive tackle] Jonas Jennings got hurt and can't play anyway. [Offensive tackle] Kwame Harris can't play. [Center Jeremy] Newberry is old and hurt. Good luck with [wide receiver] Antonio Bryant. ...

"Offensive Coordinator Norv Turner was their best addition. Alex Smith was a raw, green rookie and he's going to be a raw, green rookie again. They have no corners. The middle linebacker, Derek Smith, is their best player on defense."

Undersized but scrappy Anthony Adams started all 16 games at nose tackle, backed by Isaac Sopoaga, who has the bulk of the prototype middle man in the 3-4 and is working on stamina. Ronald Fields also backed up as a rookie at nose tackle and defensive end.

Young made a seamless transition from tackle to end, not surprising for an athlete of his stature who has always been stout against the run and pass. He led the team in sacks with eight. Marques Douglas, also undersized for a 3-4 end, held up all season on the right side.

With both starting outside linebackers gone, the additions of first-round draft choice Manny Lawson and fifth-round pick Parys Haralson are key. Inside linebacker Jeff Ulbrich is expected back from a torn-biceps injury to reclaim his spot next to Smith, the team's leading tackler. That should allow Brandon Moore, who filled in for Ulbrich for more than half the season, to replace Peterson or Carter. Corey Smith, who shows pass-rush potential, could help at end or linebacker. T.J. Slaughter was signed for depth, and Jim Maxwell and Renauld Williams are also available for backup duty.

The secondary also expects changes. Davis started 30 games at cornerback for San Diego in three seasons and is a former first-round draft pick. The 49ers also added veteran corner Walt Harris, another former first-round choice. They will join Mike Rumph and Shawntae Spencer along with Bruce Thornton, B.J. Tucker and Derrick Johnson for the cornerback slots. Rumph is no longer being tried at safety and is coming off a foot injury.

Strong safety Tony Parrish broke his leg last season to end an iron-man streak of 121 starts, but is expected back. Rookie Ben Emanuel played well enough in his place that he will get a look at free safety, where Mike Adams played after Rumph went down. The 49ers also signed veteran safety Chad Williams from Baltimore.

The brightest spot for the 49ers in 2005 was the kicking of Joe Nedney, who missed only two field goals all season. One was that 52-yarder in a gale against Chicago that Nathan Vasher returned to the end zone for a record 108 yards, typical of the team's frustrations. Andy Lee is the punter and Maurice Hicks and Rasheed Marshall return kicks, as can rookies Williams and Walker.

COURTESY NFL

FINAL GRADE: 63 STOCK STEADY REPORT

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

- **Antonio Bryant**, WR (CLE)
- **Larry Allen**, OL (DAL)
- **Bryan Gilmore**, WR (MIA)
- **Walt Harris**, CB (WAS)
- **Sammy Davis**, CB (trade, SD)
- **T.J. Slaughter**, LB (NO)
- **Chad Williams**, DB (BAL)
- **Trent Dilfer**, QB (trade, CLE)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- **Andre Carter**, LB (WAS)
- **Brandon Lloyd**, WR (trade, WAS)
- **Fred Beasley**, FB (MIA)
- **Julian Peterson**, LB (SEA)
- **Doug Easlick**, FB (PIT)
- **Rashaun Woods**, WR (trade, SD)
- **Anthony Clement**, OL (NYJ)
- **Ken Dorsey**, QB (trade, CLE)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 224.2 | 32 |
| Rushing | 105.6 | 17 |
| Passing | 118.6 | 32 |
| Scoring | 239 | 30 |
| Punt Returns | 7.6 | 19t |
| Kick Returns | 19.0 | 31 |
| Red Zone TD % | 39.3 | 27 |
| Total Defense | 391.2 | 32 |
| Against Rush | 114.5 | 18 |
| Against Pass | 276.7 | 32 |
| Points Allowed | 428 | 30 |
| Interceptions | 16 | 14t |
| Sacks | 28 | 28t |
| Turnover Diff. | -9 | 27 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 191 | 70 | 96 | 25 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 28 | 125 | 11 | 16 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 8 | 1 | 4 |

## 49ERS ROSTER

**Mike Nolan, head coach**; **Mike Singletary**, asst. head coach/linebackers; **Billy Davis**, def. coord.; **Gary Emanuel**, def. line; **Pep Hamilton**, off. asst./quarterbacks; **Bishop Harris**, running backs; **Pete Hoener**, tight ends; **Jim Hostler**, quarterbacks; **Vance Joseph**, secondary; **Johnnie Lynn**, secondary; **Larry MacDuff**, special teams coord.; **Jeff Rodgers**, asst. special teams; **Jerry Sullivan**, wide receivers/senior asst.; **Jason Tarver**, def. asst./outside linebackers; **Norv Turner**, off. coord.; **George Warhop**, off. line

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Dilfer, Trent | QB | 6-4 | 234 | 03/13/1972 | 13 | Fresno State |
| 2 | Palmer, Jesse | QB | 6-2 | 225 | 10/05/1978 | 2 | Florida |
| 3 | Pickett, Cody | QB | 6-3 | 227 | 06/30/1980 | 2 | Washington |
| 11 | Smith, Alex | QB | 6-4 | 212 | 05/07/1984 | 1 | Utah |
| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 71 | Allen, Larry | G | 6-3 | 325 | 11/27/1971 | 12 | Sonoma State |
| 64 | Baas, David | G | 6-4 | 320 | 09/28/1981 | 1 | Michigan |
| 76 | Dahl, Harvey | T | 6-5 | 305 | 06/24/1981 | 0 | Nevada |
| 77 | Harris, Kwame | T | 6-7 | 310 | 03/15/1982 | 3 | Stanford |
| 66 | Heitmann, Eric | G | 6-3 | 305 | 02/24/1980 | 4 | Stanford |
| 75 | Jennings, Jonas | T | 6-3 | 325 | 11/21/1977 | 5 | Georgia |
| 62 | Newberry, Jeremy | C | 6-5 | 304 | 03/23/1976 | 7 | California |
| 65 | Smiley, Justin | G | 6-3 | 301 | 11/11/1981 | 2 | Alabama |
| 68 | Snyder, Adam | G | 6-6 | 315 | 01/30/1982 | 1 | Oregon |
| 60 | Sobieski, Ben | T | 6-5 | 315 | 05/03/1979 | 1 | Iowa |
| 74 | Wilder, Sam | T | 6-5 | 295 | 01/10/1982 | 0 | Colorado |
| 69 | Wragge, Tony | G | 6-4 | 320 | 08/14/1979 | 1 | New Mexico State |
| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 32 | Barlow, Kevan | RB | 6-1 | 238 | 01/07/1979 | 5 | Pittsburgh |
| 21 | Gore, Frank | RB | 5-9 | 212 | 05/14/1983 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| 44 | Hetherington, Chris | RB | 6-3 | 245 | 11/27/1972 | 10 | Yale |
| 43 | Hicks, Maurice | RB | 5-11 | 200 | 07/22/1978 | 2 | N.C. A&T |
| 22 | Jackson, Terry | RB | 6-0 | 222 | 01/10/1976 | 7 | Florida |
| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 18 | Amey, Otis | WR | 5-10 | 197 | 12/04/1981 | 1 | Sacramento State |
| 47 | Bajema, Billy | TE | 6-4 | 261 | 10/31/1982 | 1 | Oklahoma State |
| 83 | Battle, Arnaz | WR | 6-1 | 217 | 02/22/1980 | 3 | Notre Dame |
| 81 | Bryant, Antonio | WR | 6-2 | 188 | 03/09/1981 | 4 | Pittsburgh |
| 10 | Fleck, P.J. | WR | 5-10 | 191 | 11/29/1980 | 1 | Northern Illinois |
| 84 | Gilmore, Bryan | WR | 6-0 | 193 | 01/21/1978 | 6 | Midwestern State |
| 86 | Jennings, Brian | TE | 6-5 | 245 | 10/14/1976 | 6 | Arizona State |
| 82 | Johnson, Eric | TE | 6-3 | 256 | 09/15/1979 | 3 | Yale |
| 49 | Jones, Terry | TE | 6-3 | 260 | 12/03/1979 | 4 | Alabama |
| 89 | Marshall, Rasheed | WR | 6-1 | 190 | 07/11/1981 | 1 | West Virginia |
| 19 | Maxwell, Marcus | WR | 6-4 | 205 | 07/08/1983 | 1 | Oregon |
| 15 | McAddley, Jason | WR | 6-2 | 200 | 07/28/1979 | 4 | Alabama |
| 48 | Smith, Trent | TE | 6-5 | 245 | 09/15/1979 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 91 | Adams, Anthony | DT | 6-0 | 299 | 06/18/1980 | 3 | Penn State |
| 94 | Douglas, Marques | DE | 6-2 | 280 | 03/05/1977 | 6 | Howard |
| 95 | Fields, Ronald | DT | 6-2 | 323 | 09/13/1981 | 1 | Mississippi State |
| 92 | Scharff, Scott | DT | 6-5 | 285 | 02/07/1982 | 0 | Stanford |
| 58 | Smith, Corey | DE | 6-2 | 250 | 11/02/1979 | 4 | N.C. State |
| 90 | Sopoaga, Isaac | DT | 6-2 | 321 | 09/04/1981 | 1 | Hawaii |
| 97 | Young, Bryant | DE | 6-3 | 291 | 01/27/1972 | 12 | Notre Dame |
| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 20 | Adams, Mike | CB | 5-11 | 185 | 03/24/1981 | 2 | Delaware |
| 31 | Davis, Sammy | CB | 6-0 | 195 | 04/08/1980 | 3 | Texas A&M |
| 38 | Emanuel, Ben | S | 6-3 | 213 | 06/18/1982 | 1 | UCLA |
| 27 | Harris, Walt | CB | 5-11 | 190 | 08/10/1974 | 10 | Mississippi State |
| 23 | Johnson, Derrick | CB | 5-10 | 188 | 02/09/1982 | 1 | Washington |
| 28 | Lewis, Keith | S | 6-0 | 202 | 10/20/1981 | 2 | Oregon |
| 33 | Parrish, Tony | S | 5-11 | 210 | 11/23/1975 | 8 | Washington |
| 29 | Richard, Kris | CB | 5-11 | 190 | 10/28/1978 | 4 | USC |
| 24 | Rumph, Mike | S | 6-2 | 206 | 11/08/1979 | 4 | Miami (FL) |
| 36 | Spencer, Shawntae | CB | 6-1 | 181 | 02/22/1982 | 2 | Pittsburgh |
| 26 | Thornton, Bruce | CB | 5-10 | 198 | 01/31/1980 | 2 | Georgia |
| 30 | Tucker, B.J. | CB | 5-11 | 188 | 10/12/1980 | 1 | Wisconsin |
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 45 | Keasey, Zak | LB | 6-0 | 240 | 03/19/1982 | 1 | Princeton |
| 57 | Maxwell, Jim | LB | 6-4 | 242 | 08/08/1981 | 2 | Gardner-Webb |
| 56 | Moore, Brandon | LB | 6-1 | 242 | 01/16/1979 | 4 | Oklahoma |
| 52 | Slaughter, T.J. | LB | 6-0 | 233 | 02/20/1977 | 6 | Southern Miss |
| 50 | Smith, Derek | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 01/18/1975 | 9 | Arizona State |
| 53 | Ulbrich, Jeff | LB | 6-0 | 249 | 02/17/1977 | 6 | Hawaii |
| 59 | Williams, Renauld | LB | 6-0 | 238 | 02/23/1981 | 2 | Hofstra |
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP. | COLLEGE |
| 4 | Lee, Andy | P | 6-0 | 206 | 08/11/1982 | 2 | Pittsburgh |
| 6 | Nedney, Joe | K | 6-5 | 225 | 03/22/1973 | 9 | San Jose State |

# CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE PREVIEW

EAST DIVISON

WEST DIVISON

# EIGHT IS ENOUGH

Look for the Argos and Eskimos to fight it out for the Grey Cup in a CFL that has been reduced to eight teams with the April departure of the Ottawa franchise.

BY RICK MATSUMOTO
*TORONTO STAR*

And then there were eight.

For the third time since 1987, the Canadian Football League opened a new season with two divisions of four teams after its Board of Governors voted just five weeks before the beginning of training camp to suspend the operations of the ailing Ottawa Renegades.

That decision forced the shifting of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to the East Division, just as it did when the Montreal Alouettes folded on the eve of the 1987 season opener, and again in 1997 when the Ottawa Rough Riders shut down, leaving the league without an Ottawa franchise for the first time.

The nation's capital went without a CFL team for five years before the Renegades were organized in 2002. But after four seasons and $9 million in losses, their ownership group told the league they had enough.

That's when the Detroit dad-and-lad duo of Bernie and Lonie Glieberman resurfaced for a third go at trying to run a football franchise. They had failed to turn around the Rough Riders for two years in the early '90s before moving to Shreveport, La., where they operated the Pirates without success for another two years during the CFL's ill-fated expansion into the U.S.

However, the league reluctantly brought them back on board last year when there appeared to be no buyers for the Renegades. It was hoped that Lonie Glieberman would make better decisions in his second stint as team president. But it turned out to be wishful thinking. He brought in NFL Hall-of-Famer Forrest Gregg, who was 10 years removed from the league (he last coached Shreveport in 1994-95), as general manager; masterminded some questionable ticket promotions; and bungled the firing of popular Coach Joe Paopao at the end of last year.

The crisis reached an apex over the winter when Gregg, during a live radio interview, forgot the name of Renegades quarterback Kerry Joseph. Fans sent an avalanche of protests to the team calling for the ouster of both Gregg and Lonie Glieberman. A pair of consultants hired by Bernie Glieberman recommended the same.

Two weeks later, Lonie resigned as president and headed back to northern Michigan to run the family's ski resort. Bernie Glieberman opted to depart as well, leaving the league scrambling to keep the franchise alive. Attempts to find a new owner proved futile. Understandably, no one was willing to buy the team with so little time to organize and sell tickets for the current season.

The league had no choice in the end but to pull the plug and hold a dispersal draft of the Ottawa players.

The collapse of the Renegades came just when the league appeared to be settling on firm footing with the stabilization of shaky franchises in Toronto and Hamilton, a new ownership group in Calgary and the two publicly owned, small-market teams—Saskatchewan and Winnipeg—finally reaching break-even points. There was even growing hope that a fifth Eastern team could be established in Halifax, Nova Scotia, by the end of the decade to balance the number of teams in each division.

The league is once again balanced, instead with two four-team groupings, not five in each division.

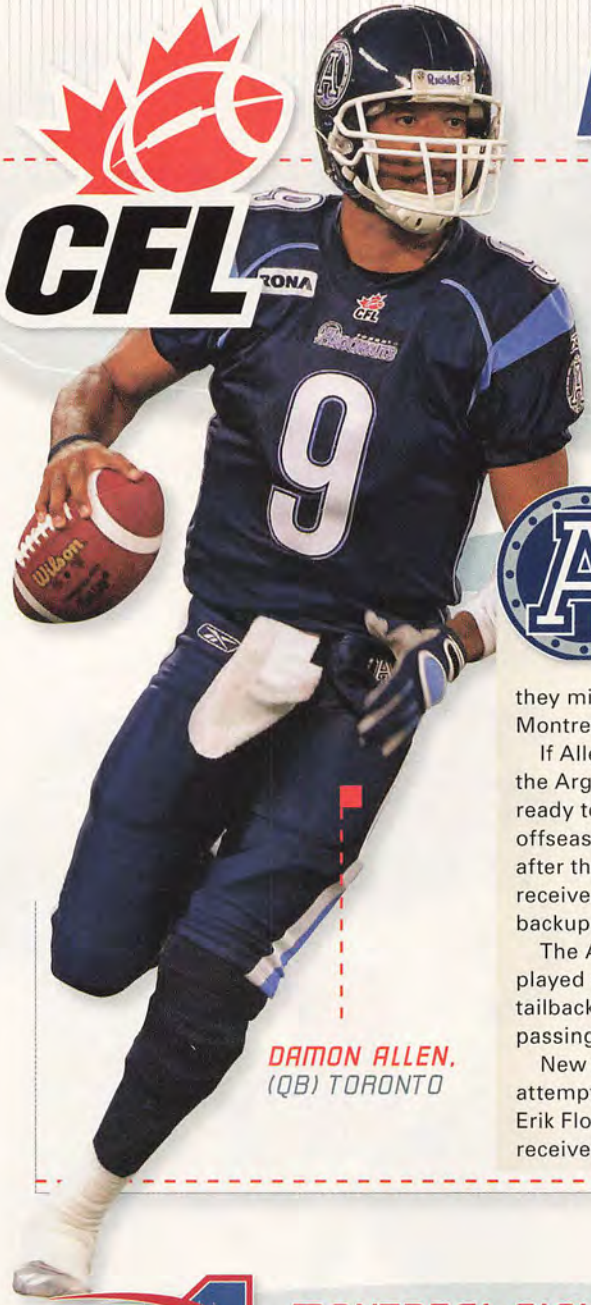
The CFL, it seems, just can't handle prosperity.

KERRY JOSEPH, (QB) SASKATCHEWAN

(OPPOSITE PAGE): JOHN SOKOLOWSKI; JOHN SOKOLOWSKI

# EAST DIVISION

1. TORONTO ARGONAUTS
2. MONTREAL ALOUETTES
3. HAMILTON TIGER-CATS
4. WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS



DAMON ALLEN, (QB) TORONTO

## TORONTO ARGONAUTS

The Argonauts are counting on the seemingly ageless Damon Allen to get them back to the Grey Cup game, a goal they missed last November when, after finishing first in the East, they lost to Montreal in the division final.

If Allen, who was named the CFL Most Outstanding Player at age 42, falters, the Argos are hoping a former Heisman Trophy winner, Eric Crouch, will be ready to take over. Toronto signed the former Nebraska Cornhusker in the offseason, giving him the opportunity to prove he can be a pro quarterback after three NFL teams attempted to convert him to a defensive back or wide receiver. Along with Crouch, they also traded for former B.C. and Winnipeg backup pivot Spergon Wynn.

The Argos added exciting running back/returner Keith Stokes, who had played out his option with Winnipeg. He'll compete with John Avery for the tailback spot, but will likely wind up as a fifth receiver who'll replace Avery in passing situations.

New faces include former NFL Pro Bowl linebacker Lee Woodall, who is attempting a comeback at age 36, and former Buffalo Bills first-round pick Erik Flowers, a defensive end. Toronto picked up nose guard Marc Pilon and receiver David Azziz in the Ottawa dispersal draft.

## MONTREAL ALOUETTES

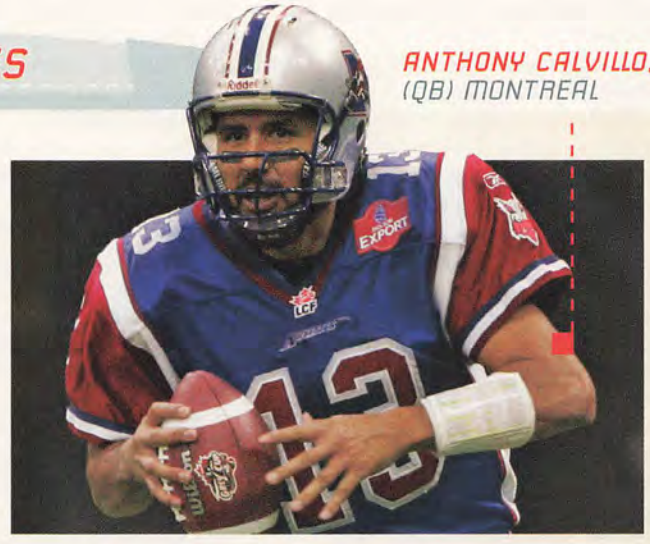
As quarterback Anthony Calvillo goes, so go the Alouettes. That's pretty much been the story of the team's success over the past seven years and it's likely to be the case again this season.

Calvillo passed for a league-leading 5,556 yards and 34 touchdowns, but lost the Most Outstanding Player nomination for the East to Damon Allen, upsetting Coach Don Matthews, who suggested the vote was based on sentiment rather than on performance. With Demetris Bendross joining a receiving crew that includes Ben Cahoon, Kerry Watkins and Thyron Anderson, Calvillo will undoubtedly be in the running again this year for that top individual award.

Former NFL first-round pick Robert Edwards, now a solid 234 pounds, should continue to provide a formidable running attack.

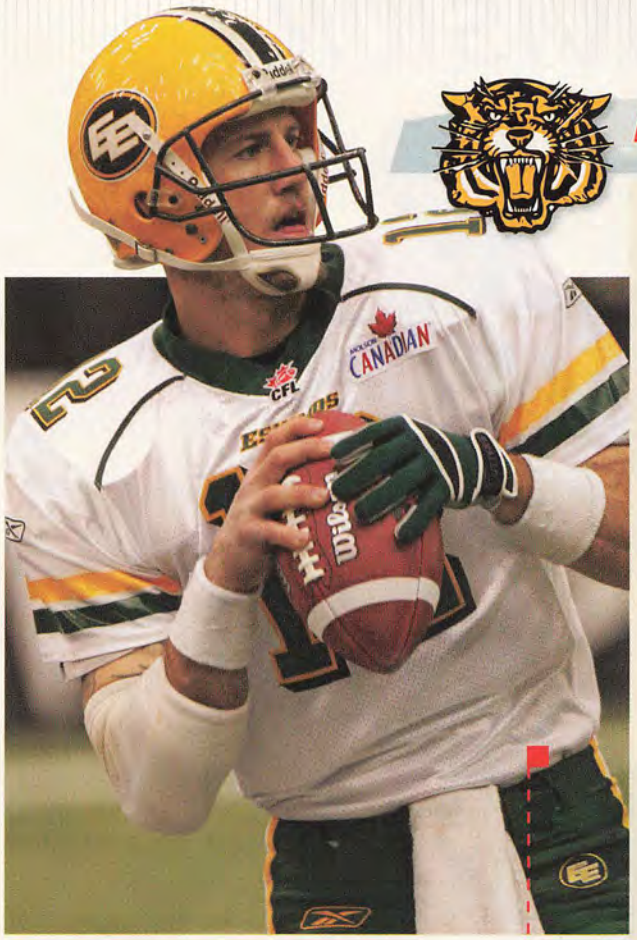
Defensively, cornerback Davis Sanchez returns to the team after a trade with Edmonton and, after some lengthy negotiations, all-star free safety Richard Karikari rejected a Winnipeg offer to re-sign with Montreal.

Defensive end Kai Ellis and defensive back Greg Moss were the Als' first two picks from Ottawa.



ANTHONY CALVILLO, (QB) MONTREAL

TOP TO BOTTOM: JAY GULA / WIRE IMAGE.COM; JOHN SOKOLOWSKI



JASON MAAS, (QB) HAMILTON

## HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

Finally, the Tiger-Cats have the replacement for aging Danny McManus at quarterback. In a trade that many suspect (despite denials) was tied to last September's swap that saw all-star running back Troy Davis go to Edmonton, the Ti-Cats obtained the talented Jason Maas, who was possibly the best non-starting QB in the league.

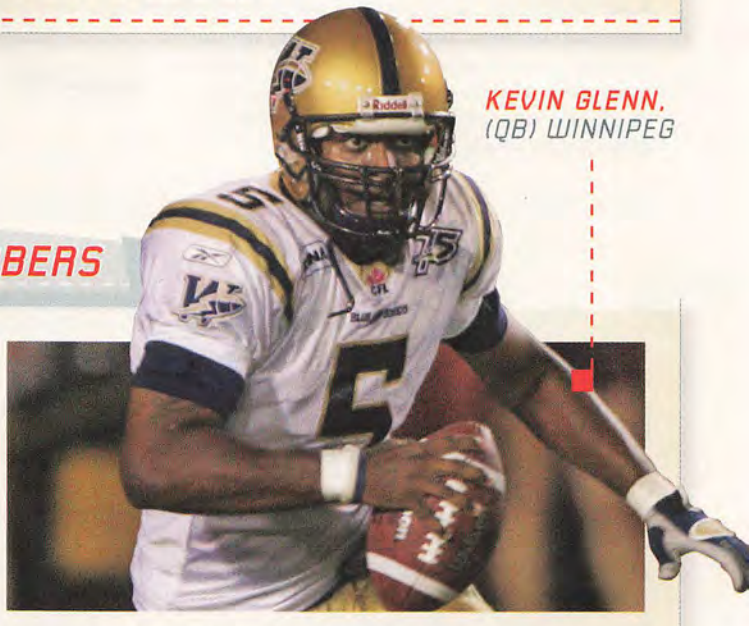
Suspicions were raised because Edmonton gave up very little to acquire Davis, who ended up leading the Eskimos to last year's Grey Cup. Maas appeared to be the payback.

Maas, who lost his No. 1 status when Ricky Ray returned to Edmonton, is the player the Ti-Cats are counting on to rekindle a team that slipped back to a 5-13 record last year after a creditable 9-8-1 showing that earned Greg Marshall Coach-of-the-Year honors in 2004 as a rookie mentor.

Hamilton dipped into the free-agent market to sign center George Hudson, guard Pascal Cheron and tough running back Josh Ranek, all of whom played out their options with Ottawa. The Ti-Cats also brought in former Big Ten rushing leader Anthony Davis of Wisconsin. Then, by trading their first-round pick in the Ottawa dispersal draft, they obtained electrifying return man Corey Holmes from Saskatchewan.

Hamilton later picked up veteran receiver Terry Vaughn in an April trade with Montreal for a conditional 2007 draft pick.

Marshall's coaching staff gained years of CFL experience with the addition of former Ottawa Head Coach Joe Paopao as offensive coordinator.



KEVIN GLENN, (QB) WINNIPEG

## WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS

The new head coach, Doug Berry, finds himself back in the East Division now that the Blue Bombers have been shifted to fill the void left by Ottawa.

The former offensive coordinator of the Montreal Alouettes replaces Jim Daley, who took over midway through 2004 from Dave Ritchie, but was bounced when the club missed the playoffs last season.

Berry has been given much credit for elevating Alouettes quarterback Anthony Calvillo to the next level and he'll have to do the same with Kevin Glenn if the Bombers are to also rise to greater heights.

The Bombers lost their chance to get Kerry Joseph in the Ottawa auction when Saskatchewan traded up, but they seemed just as happy to land offensive linemen Ibrahim Khan and Val St. Germain with their first picks. Perhaps they'll provide the protection Glenn needs to get the ball to likes of receiver Milt Stegall, whose 129 TD receptions are the most ever in the CFL. Running back Charles Roberts, with a league-best 1,624 rushing yards in 2005, will continue to be a threat whenever he touches the ball.

General Manager Brendan Taman plugged a major hole on defense with the acquisition of free-agent middle linebacker Barrin Simpson from the B.C. Lions.

Punter Jon Ryan, who set a single-season CFL record for punting average (50.6 yards), signed with the Green Bay Packers.

JOHN SOKOLOWSKI (2)

# WEST DIVISION

1. EDMONTON ESKIMOS
2. CALGARY STAMPEDERS
3. B.C. LIONS
4. SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS

RICKY RAY,
(QB) EDMONTON

## EDMONTON ESKIMOS

It was typical of the efficient manner in which the Eskimos function: prevent a situation from becoming a problem.

Ricky Ray returned from a one-year, clipboard-holding experience with the New York Jets and immediately stepped back into the No. 1 quarterbacking role. His good friend, Jason Maas, didn't complain, accepting his demotion to No. 2 with grace. But in the Western playoffs, Maas proved he could be an efficient starter when he came off the bench to produce two victories that put the Eskimos into the Grey Cup game. Ray then rallied in the championship game to lead Edmonton to its second Cup in three years.

Realizing that retaining both QBs, despite their off-field friendship, could create a potential controversy, the Eskimos dealt Maas to Hamilton, where he'll be the starter. Jason Tucker, the league's leading receiver last year with 1,411 yards, re-signed after playing out his option and listening to offers from other teams.

The Eskimos improved their defense, picking up defensive back Reggie Durden and lineman Robert Brown in a trade that sent cornerback Davis Sanchez to Montreal, and selecting Washington State defensive end Adam Braidwood with the No. 1 overall pick in the CFL's Canadian college draft. Then they added defensive back Anthony Collier and wide receiver Pat Woodcock, among others, from the Ottawa dispersal draft.

HENRY BURRIS,
(QB) CALGARY

## CALGARY STAMPEDERS

Tom Higgins is ready to take the next step.

He wound up as the Stampeders' vice president of football operations and head coach last year after the Eskimos fired him for failing to make it to the Grey Cup game for a third consecutive year.

While he didn't get the Stampeders to the championship final last fall, Higgins did turn a team with a 4-14 record in 2004 into 11-7 second-place finishers in the West. For that he was named CFL Coach of the Year for the second time in three years.

But now comes the more difficult task of getting the Stampeders to "The Show." And it appears Higgins has assembled the talent to do that.

The Stamps have an explosive offense led by quarterback Henry Burris, whom they pried away from Saskatchewan a year ago. They further upgraded their attack when they raided the Riders again to sign free-agent receiver Elijah Thurmon and added him to a corps that includes Jeremaine Copeland, Nikolas Lewis, Ken-Yon Rambo, Martay Jenkins and Brett Ralph. Backing up Burris will be veteran Danny McManus, who went from Hamilton to Edmonton and then to the Stamps.

Led by the linebacking corps of John Grace, Scott Coe and Brian Clark, the defense should again make things miserable for opposing offenses. Calgary lost George White, who led the league with 116 tackles in 2005, to an offseason injury, but grabbed Cam Yeow in the Ottawa auction.

JOHN SOKOLOWSKI (2)

## B.C. LIONS

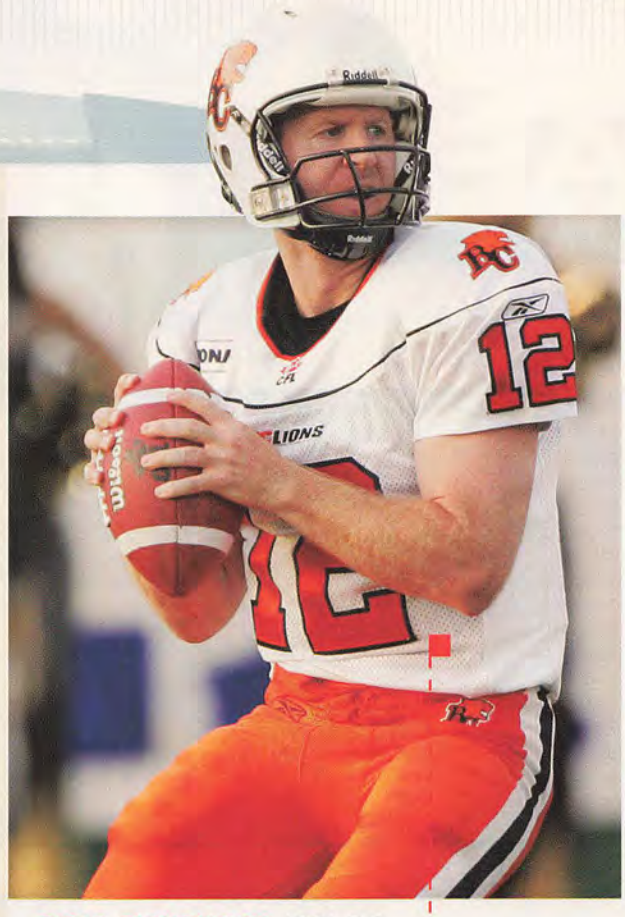
The quarterback controversy is over.

After a year of ongoing debate as to whom should be the Lions' starting QB, the problem was solved when Casey Printers signed with the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs. That left 33-year-old Dave Dickenson firmly entrenched as the team's No. 1 pivot.

With that situation sorted out, GM/Coach Wally Buono can now concentrate on correcting the problem that led to his team's late-season collapse last fall. The Lions won their first 11 games and appeared to be vying for an unbeaten regular season, but then they lost six of their final seven and barely hung on to a first-place finish before being beaten by Edmonton in the division final.

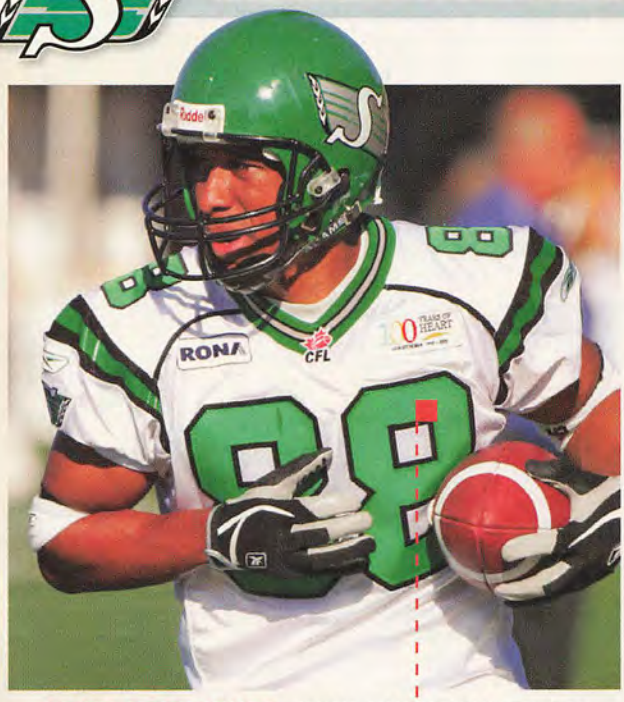
The Lions' major problem was the inability of their offensive line to keep the opposition away from the quarterback. That took away from the threat posed by one of the league's top receiving corps led by Geroy Simon, Ryan Thelwell and Jason Clermont.

The defense suffered a major loss when perennial all-star linebacker Barrin Simpson played out his option and signed with Winnipeg. Jamal Johnson will be his replacement. However, Buono did manage to obtain highly rated defensive back Korey Banks in the Ottawa fire sale and re-signed all-star tackle Bobby Singh. He dipped into the free-agent market to sign Saskatchewan kicker/punter Paul McCallum, thus ending Duncan O'Mahony's days as a Lion.



DAVE DICKENSON, (QB) B.C.

## SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS



MATT DOMINGUEZ, (WR) SASKATCHEWAN

JOHN SOKOLOWSKI (2)

The lament coming out of Regina, Saskatchewan, was that the Roughriders had done nothing in the offseason to give their fans reason for excitement about the new season.

"The sounds of silence are getting deafening," wrote veteran *Regina Leader-Post* football writer Darrell Davis, as he watched the other CFL teams making changes.

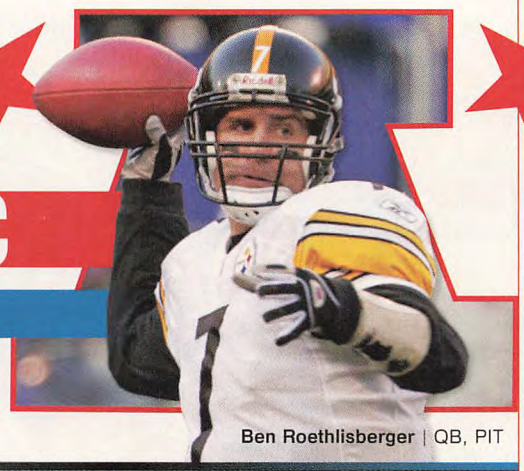
But the silence changed to a loud roar on the day of the Ottawa Renegades' dispersal draft, when Saskatchewan obtained the first pick by trading running back/kick returner Corey Holmes to Hamilton.

With the No. 1 selection, the Roughriders took quarterback Kerry Joseph, hoping he would fill the void created when Henry Burris left last season as a free agent. The 'Riders wouldn't top the $350,000 that Calgary offered Burris, but now they'll be paying Joseph $400,000.

The community-owned Roughriders will also be dipping into their meager savings after selecting wide receiver Jason Armstead and his nearly $200,000 contract in the Ottawa auction. He'll team with holdover Matt Dominguez to give the 'Riders a potent one-two receiving punch.

The arrival of Joseph led to the trade of Nealon Greene in late April to Montreal for defensive back Almondo Curry, thus leaving Marcus Crandell as the lone backup QB.

# AFC STATS



Ben Roethlisberger | QB, PIT

## TEAM SCORING

| TEAM | TD | TDR | TDP | TDM | XP | XPA | 2PT | 2PTA | FG | FGA | SAF | POINTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indianapolis | 53 | 18 | 31 | 4 | 52 | 52 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 26 | 0 | 439 |
| Cincinnati | 48 | 15 | 32 | 1 | 47 | 47 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 32 | 0 | 421 |
| San Diego | 51 | 22 | 27 | 2 | 49 | 49 | 0 | 1 | 21 | 24 | 0 | 418 |
| Kansas City | 46 | 26 | 17 | 3 | 44 | 45 | 1 | 1 | 27 | 33 | 0 | 403 |
| Denver | 46 | 25 | 18 | 3 | 43 | 44 | 1 | 2 | 24 | 32 | 1 | 395 |
| Pittsburgh | 45 | 21 | 21 | 3 | 45 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 29 | 1 | 389 |
| New England | 46 | 16 | 28 | 2 | 41 | 42 | 1 | 4 | 20 | 25 | 0 | 379 |
| Jacksonville | 42 | 18 | 21 | 3 | 38 | 39 | 1 | 1 | 23 | 30 | 0 | 361 |
| Miami | 34 | 11 | 22 | 1 | 33 | 33 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 30 | 3 | 318 |
| Tennessee | 33 | 8 | 20 | 5 | 30 | 32 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 29 | 1 | 299 |
| Oakland | 33 | 11 | 21 | 1 | 30 | 30 | 1 | 3 | 20 | 30 | 0 | 290 |
| Buffalo | 26 | 6 | 18 | 2 | 26 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 35 | 1 | 271 |
| Baltimore | 25 | 5 | 17 | 3 | 23 | 23 | 1 | 2 | 30 | 35 | 0 | 265 |
| Houston | 26 | 9 | 15 | 2 | 24 | 24 | 1 | 2 | 26 | 34 | 0 | 260 |
| New York | 25 | 10 | 11 | 4 | 24 | 24 | 0 | 1 | 22 | 28 | 0 | 240 |
| Cleveland | 22 | 4 | 15 | 3 | 19 | 21 | 0 | 1 | 27 | 29 | 0 | 232 |
| **AFC AVERAGE** | **37.6** | **14.1** | **20.9** | **2.6** | **35.5** | **36.0** | **0.5** | **1.4** | **24.5** | **30.1** | **0.4** | **336.3** |

## PASSING

| 228+ ATTEMPTS | TEAM | ATT | COMP | PCT | YDS | AVG | TD | TD% | LONG | INT | INT% | SACKS | LOSS | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manning, Peyton | IND | 453 | 305 | 67.3 | 3747 | 8.27 | 28 | 6.2 | 80t | 10 | 2.2 | 17 | 81 | 104.1 |
| Palmer, Carson | CIN | 509 | 345 | 67.8 | 3836 | 7.54 | 32 | 6.3 | 70t | 12 | 2.4 | 19 | 105 | 101.1 |
| Roethlisberger, Ben | PIT | 268 | 168 | 62.7 | 2385 | 8.90 | 17 | 6.3 | 85t | 9 | 3.4 | 23 | 129 | 98.6 |
| Brady, Tom | NE | 530 | 334 | 63.0 | 4110 | 7.75 | 26 | 4.9 | 71 | 14 | 2.6 | 26 | 188 | 92.3 |
| Plummer, Jake | DEN | 456 | 277 | 60.7 | 3366 | 7.38 | 18 | 3.9 | 72 | 7 | 1.5 | 22 | 135 | 90.2 |
| Green, Trent | KC | 507 | 317 | 62.5 | 4014 | 7.92 | 17 | 3.4 | 60t | 10 | 2.0 | 32 | 204 | 90.1 |
| Leftwich, Byron | JAX | 302 | 175 | 57.9 | 2123 | 7.03 | 15 | 5.0 | 45t | 5 | 1.7 | 23 | 110 | 89.3 |
| Brees, Drew | SD | 500 | 323 | 64.6 | 3576 | 7.15 | 24 | 4.8 | 54 | 15 | 3.0 | 27 | 223 | 89.2 |
| Holcomb, Kelly | BUF | 230 | 155 | 67.4 | 1509 | 6.56 | 10 | 4.3 | 65 | 8 | 3.5 | 17 | 140 | 85.6 |
| McNair, Steve | TEN | 476 | 292 | 61.3 | 3161 | 6.64 | 16 | 3.4 | 57 | 11 | 2.3 | 20 | 134 | 82.4 |
| Collins, Kerry | OAK | 565 | 302 | 53.5 | 3759 | 6.65 | 20 | 3.5 | 79 | 12 | 2.1 | 39 | 261 | 77.3 |
| Carr, David | HOU | 423 | 256 | 60.5 | 2488 | 5.88 | 14 | 3.3 | 53t | 11 | 2.6 | 68 | 424 | 77.2 |
| Dilfer, Trent | CLE | 333 | 199 | 59.8 | 2321 | 6.97 | 11 | 3.3 | 80t | 12 | 3.6 | 23 | 139 | 76.9 |
| Bollinger, Brooks | NYJ | 266 | 150 | 56.4 | 1558 | 5.86 | 7 | 2.6 | 60t | 6 | 2.3 | 32 | 193 | 72.9 |
| Frerotte, Gus | MIA | 494 | 257 | 52.0 | 2996 | 6.06 | 18 | 3.6 | 60t | 13 | 2.6 | 26 | 158 | 71.9 |
| Boller, Kyle | BAL | 293 | 171 | 58.4 | 1799 | 6.14 | 11 | 3.8 | 47t | 12 | 4.1 | 23 | 146 | 71.8 |
| Wright, Anthony | BAL | 266 | 164 | 61.7 | 1582 | 5.95 | 6 | 2.3 | 48 | 9 | 3.4 | 19 | 147 | 71.7 |
| Losman, J.P. | BUF | 228 | 113 | 49.6 | 1340 | 5.88 | 8 | 3.5 | 58 | 8 | 3.5 | 26 | 197 | 64.9 |

## NET PUNTING

| 52+ PUNTS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | LONG | AVG | TB | BLK | OPP RET | RET YDS | IN 20 | NET AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jones, Donnie | MIA | 88 | 3827 | 63 | 43.5 | 7 | 0 | 46 | 227 | 31 | 39.3 |
| Moorman, Brian | BUF | 71 | 3242 | 68 | 45.7 | 9 | 0 | 42 | 285 | 22 | 39.1 |
| Miller, Josh | NE | 76 | 3431 | 59 | 45.1 | 4 | 0 | 42 | 405 | 22 | 38.3 |
| Sauerbrun, Todd | DEN | 72 | 3157 | 66 | 43.8 | 6 | 0 | 36 | 266 | 24 | 38.0 |
| Scifres, Mike | SD | 71 | 3104 | 71 | 43.7 | 8 | 0 | 26 | 244 | 25 | 38.0 |
| Graham, Ben | NYJ | 74 | 3233 | 59 | 43.7 | 6 | 0 | 36 | 305 | 18 | 37.9 |
| Lechler, Shane | OAK | 82 | 3744 | 64 | 45.7 | 9 | 0 | 39 | 460 | 26 | 37.9 |
| Hentrich, Craig | TEN | 78 | 3371 | 59 | 43.2 | 14 | 0 | 32 | 144 | 21 | 37.8 |
| Smith, Hunter | IND | 52 | 2301 | 58 | 44.3 | 5 | 0 | 25 | 272 | 23 | 37.1 |
| Hanson, Chris | JAX | 82 | 3517 | 74 | 42.9 | 11 | 0 | 29 | 236 | 33 | 36.9 |
| Stanley, Chad | HOU | 77 | 2990 | 61 | 38.8 | 1 | 0 | 33 | 219 | 29 | 35.7 |
| Zastudil, Dave | BAL | 84 | 3653 | 60 | 43.5 | 7 | 0 | 55 | 481 | 11 | 35.7 |
| Larson, Kyle | CIN | 60 | 2591 | 75 | 43.2 | 8 | 0 | 32 | 260 | 13 | 35.6 |
| Colquitt, Dustin | KC | 65 | 2564 | 62 | 39.4 | 5 | 0 | 23 | 179 | 27 | 35.2 |
| Gardocki, Chris | PIT | 67 | 2803 | 65 | 41.8 | 7 | 0 | 37 | 336 | 22 | 34.7 |
| Richardson, Kyle | CLE | 78 | 3181 | 61 | 40.8 | 9 | 0 | 36 | 347 | 22 | 34.0 |

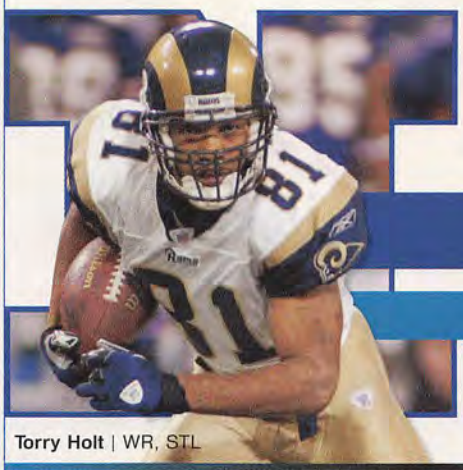
## SCORING

| KICKERS | TEAM | XP | XPA | FG | FGA | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Graham, Shayne | CIN | 47 | 47 | 28 | 32 | 131 |
| Tynes, Lawrence | KC | 44 | 45 | 27 | 33 | 125 |
| Vanderjagt, Mike | IND | 52 | 52 | 23 | 25 | 121 |
| Reed, Jeff | PIT | 45 | 45 | 24 | 29 | 117 |
| Elam, Jason | DEN | 42 | 43 | 24 | 32 | 114 |
| Lindell, Rian | BUF | 26 | 26 | 29 | 35 | 113 |
| Stover, Matt | BAL | 23 | 23 | 30 | 34 | 113 |
| Kaeding, Nate | SD | 49 | 49 | 21 | 24 | 112 |
| Mare, Olindo | MIA | 33 | 33 | 25 | 30 | 108 |
| Scobee, Josh | JAX | 38 | 39 | 23 | 30 | 107 |
| Brown, Kris | HOU | 24 | 24 | 26 | 34 | 102 |
| Dawson, Phil | CLE | 19 | 21 | 27 | 29 | 100 |
| Vinatieri, Adam | NE | 40 | 41 | 20 | 25 | 100 |
| Bironas, Rob | TEN | 30 | 32 | 23 | 29 | 99 |
| Janikowski, Sebastian | OAK | 30 | 30 | 20 | 30 | 90 |
| Nugent, Mike | NYJ | 24 | 24 | 22 | 28 | 90 |
| Cortez, Jose | DAL-PHI-SF-IND | 18 | 19 | 12 | 17 | 54 |
| Flutie, Doug | NE | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Sauerbrun, Todd | DEN | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Elling, Aaron | BAL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Rayner, Dave | IND | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

## SCORING

| NON-KICKERS | TEAM | TD | TDR | TDP | TDM | 2PT | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Johnson, Larry | KC | 21 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 126 |
| Tomlinson, LaDainian | SD | 20 | 18 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 120 |
| James, Edgerrin | IND | 14 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 84 |
| Anderson, Mike | DEN | 13 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 78 |
| Dillon, Corey | NE | 13 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 78 |
| Harrison, Marvin | IND | 12 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 72 |
| Johnson, Rudi | CIN | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 72 |
| Jordan, LaMont | OAK | 11 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 68 |
| Chambers, Chris | MIA | 11 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 66 |
| Ward, Hines | PIT | 11 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 66 |
| Gates, Antonio | SD | 10 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| Bettis, Jerome | PIT | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| Johnson, Chad | CIN | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| McCardell, Keenan | SD | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| Bell, Tatum | DEN | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Houshmandzadeh, T.J. | CIN | 8 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Moss, Randy | OAK | 8 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Brown, Chris | TEN | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Evans, Lee | BUF | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Heap, Todd | BAL | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Holmes, Priest | KC | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Wilford, Ernest | JAX | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Davis, Domanick | HOU | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Henry, Chris | CIN | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Johnson, Kyle | DEN | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Miller, Heath | PIT | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Smith, Jimmy | JAX | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Smith, Rod | DEN | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Williams, Ricky | MIA | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Bradford, Corey | HOU | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 32 |
| Branch, Deion | NE | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Brown, Ronnie | MIA | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Coles, Laveranues | NYJ | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Jones, Matt | JAX | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Kennison, Eddie | KC | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Martin, Curtis | NYJ | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| McGahee, Willis | BUF | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| McMichael, Randy | MIA | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Parker, Willie | PIT | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Porter, Jerry | OAK | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Wayne, Reggie | IND | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Bennett, Drew | TEN | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Bryant, Antonio | CLE | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Clark, Dallas | IND | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Hall, Dante | KC | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 24 |
| Jones, Greg | JAX | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Lewis, Jamal | BAL | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Moulds, Eric | BUF | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Rhodes, Dominic | IND | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Toefield, LaBrandon | JAX | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Troupe, Ben | TEN | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Vrabel, Mike | NE | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 24 |
| Watson, Ben | NE | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Wells, Jonathan | HOU | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |

BRUCE SCHWARTZMAN



Torry Holt | WR, STL

# NFC STATS

## SCORING

| KICKERS | TEAM | XP | XPA | FG | FGA | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Feely, Jay | NYG | 43 | 43 | 35 | 42 | 148 |
| Rackers, Neil | ARI | 20 | 20 | 40 | 42 | 140 |
| Kasay, John | CAR | 43 | 44 | 26 | 34 | 121 |
| Wilkins, Jeff | STL | 36 | 36 | 27 | 31 | 117 |
| Brown, Josh | SEA | 56 | 57 | 18 | 25 | 110 |
| Edinger, Paul | MIN | 31 | 31 | 25 | 34 | 106 |
| Peterson, Todd | ATL | 35 | 35 | 23 | 25 | 104 |
| Carney, John | NO | 22 | 22 | 25 | 32 | 97 |
| Nedney, Joe | SF | 19 | 19 | 26 | 28 | 97 |
| Bryant, Matt | TB | 31 | 31 | 21 | 25 | 94 |
| Longwell, Ryan | GB | 30 | 31 | 20 | 27 | 90 |
| Hanson, Jason | DET | 27 | 27 | 19 | 24 | 84 |
| Gould, Robbie | CHI | 19 | 20 | 21 | 27 | 82 |
| Akers, David | PHI | 23 | 23 | 16 | 22 | 71 |
| Hall, John | WAS | 27 | 27 | 12 | 14 | 63 |
| Novak, Nick | WAS-ARI | 15 | 15 | 8 | 10 | 39 |
| Cundiff, Billy | DAL | 14 | 14 | 5 | 8 | 29 |
| France, Todd | PHI-TB | 6 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 27 |
| Suisham, Shaun | DAL | 8 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 17 |
| Brien, Doug | CHI | 7 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 10 |
| Koenen, Michael | ATL | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Simoneau, Mark | PHI | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Hamilton, Paris | DET | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

## SCORING

| NON-KICKERS | TEAM | TD | TDR | TDP | TDM | 2PT | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alexander, Shaun | SEA | 28 | 27 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 168 |
| Smith, Steve | CAR | 13 | 1 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 78 |
| Davis, Stephen | CAR | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 72 |
| Barber, Tiki | NYG | 11 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 68 |
| Portis, Clinton | WAS | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 68 |
| Fitzgerald, Larry | ARI | 10 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| Galloway, Joey | TB | 10 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| Jackson, Steven | STL | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| Jurevicius, Joe | SEA | 10 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| Holt, Torry | STL | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| Jones, Thomas | CHI | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| Moss, Santana | WAS | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| Duckett, T.J. | ATL | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Glenn, Terry | DAL | 8 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Sellers, Mike | WAS | 8 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Williams, Roy | DET | 8 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Alstott, Mike | TB | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 44 |
| Boldin, Anquan | ARI | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 44 |
| Shockey, Jeremy | NYG | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 44 |
| Westbrook, Brian | PHI | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 44 |
| Burress, Plaxico | NYG | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Cooley, Chris | WAS | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Curtis, Kevin | STL | 7 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Gado, Samkon | GB | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Jacobs, Brandon | NYG | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Stallworth, Donte' | NO | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Toomer, Amani | NYG | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Johnson, Keyshawn | DAL | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 38 |
| Owens, Terrell | PHI | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Vick, Michael | ATL | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Williams, Carnell | TB | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Witten, Jason | DAL | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Crumpler, Alge | ATL | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 32 |
| Robinson, Marcus | MIN | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 32 |
| Barber, Marion | DAL | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Bennett, Michael | MIN | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Chatman, Antonio | GB | 5 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 30 |
| Driver, Donald | GB | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Jones, Julius | DAL | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Jones, Kevin | DET | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Lloyd, Brandon | SF | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Stevens, Jerramy | SEA | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Brown, Reggie | PHI | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Dunn, Warrick | ATL | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Fason, Ciatrick | MIN | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Moore, Mewelde | MIN | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 24 |
| Muhammad, Muhsin | CHI | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Proehl, Ricky | CAR | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Taylor, Travis | MIN | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Ferguson, Robert | GB | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 20 |
| Martin, David | GB | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 20 |

## TEAM SCORING

| TEAM | TD | TDR | TDP | TDM | XP | XPA | 2PT | 2PTA | FG | FGA | SAF | POINTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Seattle | 57 | 29 | 25 | 3 | 56 | 57 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 25 | 0 | 452 |
| New York | 45 | 17 | 24 | 4 | 43 | 43 | 2 | 2 | 35 | 42 | 0 | 422 |
| Carolina | 45 | 17 | 25 | 3 | 43 | 44 | 0 | 1 | 26 | 34 | 0 | 391 |
| St. Louis | 40 | 13 | 23 | 4 | 36 | 36 | 2 | 3 | 27 | 31 | 1 | 363 |
| Washington | 44 | 15 | 25 | 4 | 42 | 42 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 21 | 0 | 359 |
| Atlanta | 39 | 17 | 19 | 3 | 35 | 35 | 4 | 4 | 24 | 27 | 1 | 351 |
| Dallas | 38 | 13 | 23 | 2 | 35 | 36 | 1 | 2 | 20 | 28 | 0 | 325 |
| Arizona | 26 | 2 | 21 | 3 | 20 | 20 | 3 | 6 | 43 | 45 | 0 | 311 |
| Philadelphia | 35 | 11 | 21 | 3 | 32 | 33 | 1 | 2 | 22 | 29 | 0 | 310 |
| Minnesota | 33 | 10 | 18 | 5 | 31 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 25 | 34 | 0 | 306 |
| Tampa Bay | 33 | 13 | 17 | 3 | 32 | 32 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 27 | 1 | 300 |
| Green Bay | 34 | 11 | 20 | 3 | 30 | 31 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 27 | 0 | 298 |
| Chicago | 28 | 11 | 11 | 6 | 26 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 31 | 0 | 260 |
| Detroit | 28 | 10 | 15 | 3 | 27 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 24 | 1 | 254 |
| San Francisco | 23 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 21 | 21 | 1 | 2 | 26 | 29 | 0 | 239 |
| New Orleans | 23 | 8 | 15 | 0 | 22 | 22 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 32 | 0 | 235 |
| **NFC AVERAGE** | **35.7** | **12.9** | **19.4** | **3.4** | **33.2** | **33.6** | **1.2** | **1.9** | **24.4** | **30.4** | **0.3** | **323.5** |

## PASSING

| 270+ ATTEMPTS | TEAM | ATT | COMP | PCT | YARDS | AVG | TD | TD% | LONG | INT | INT% | SACKS | LOSS | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hasselbeck, Matt | SEA | 449 | 294 | 65.5 | 3459 | 7.70 | 24 | 5.3 | 56 | 9 | 2.0 | 24 | 154 | 98.2 |
| Bulger, Marc | STL | 287 | 192 | 66.9 | 2297 | 8.0 | 14 | 4.9 | 57t | 9 | 3.1 | 26 | 188 | 94.4 |
| Johnson, Brad | MIN | 294 | 184 | 62.6 | 1885 | 6.41 | 12 | 4.1 | 80t | 4 | 1.4 | 23 | 134 | 88.9 |
| Delhomme, Jake | CAR | 435 | 262 | 60.2 | 3421 | 7.86 | 24 | 5.5 | 80t | 16 | 3.7 | 28 | 214 | 88.1 |
| Brunell, Mark | WAS | 454 | 262 | 57.7 | 3050 | 6.72 | 23 | 5.1 | 78t | 10 | 2.2 | 27 | 213 | 85.9 |
| Warner, Kurt | ARI | 375 | 242 | 64.5 | 2713 | 7.23 | 11 | 2.9 | 63 | 9 | 2.4 | 23 | 158 | 85.8 |
| McNabb, Donovan | PHI | 357 | 211 | 59.1 | 2507 | 7.02 | 16 | 4.5 | 91t | 9 | 2.5 | 19 | 112 | 85.0 |
| Bledsoe, Drew | DAL | 499 | 300 | 60.1 | 3639 | 7.29 | 23 | 4.6 | 71t | 17 | 3.4 | 49 | 295 | 83.7 |
| Simms, Chris | TB | 313 | 191 | 61.0 | 2035 | 6.50 | 10 | 3.2 | 78t | 7 | 2.2 | 29 | 205 | 81.4 |
| Manning, Eli | NYG | 557 | 294 | 52.8 | 3762 | 6.75 | 24 | 4.3 | 78t | 17 | 3.1 | 28 | 184 | 75.9 |
| McCown, Josh | ARI | 270 | 163 | 60.4 | 1836 | 6.80 | 9 | 3.3 | 49 | 11 | 4.1 | 18 | 101 | 74.9 |
| Vick, Michael | ATL | 387 | 214 | 55.3 | 2412 | 6.23 | 15 | 3.9 | 58 | 13 | 3.4 | 33 | 201 | 73.1 |
| Harrington, Joey | DET | 330 | 188 | 57.0 | 2021 | 6.12 | 12 | 3.6 | 86 | 12 | 3.6 | 24 | 136 | 72.0 |
| Favre, Brett | GB | 607 | 372 | 61.3 | 3881 | 6.39 | 20 | 3.3 | 59 | 29 | 4.8 | 24 | 170 | 70.9 |
| Brooks, Aaron | NO | 431 | 240 | 55.7 | 2882 | 6.69 | 13 | 3.0 | 66 | 17 | 3.9 | 33 | 202 | 70.0 |
| Orton, Kyle | CHI | 368 | 190 | 51.6 | 1869 | 5.08 | 9 | 2.4 | 54 | 13 | 3.5 | 30 | 190 | 59.7 |

## NET PUNTING

| 41+ PUNTS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | LONG | AVG | TB | BLK | OPP RET | RET YDS | IN 20 | NET AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Baker, Jason | CAR | 72 | 3118 | 59 | 43.3 | 4 | 0 | 36 | 235 | 23 | 38.9 |
| Berger, Mitch | NO | 71 | 3066 | 69 | 43.2 | 3 | 0 | 33 | 260 | 28 | 38.7 |
| Bidwell, Josh | TB | 90 | 4101 | 61 | 45.6 | 13 | 0 | 49 | 466 | 24 | 37.5 |
| McBriar, Mat | DAL | 81 | 3439 | 63 | 42.5 | 9 | 0 | 33 | 250 | 28 | 37.1 |
| Feagles, Jeff | NYG | 73 | 3070 | 56 | 42.1 | 3 | 0 | 36 | 309 | 26 | 37.0 |
| Player, Scott | ARI | 73 | 3206 | 60 | 43.9 | 7 | 0 | 39 | 328 | 18 | 37.0 |
| Harris, Nick | DET | 84 | 3656 | 60 | 43.5 | 2 | 0 | 50 | 520 | 34 | 36.9 |
| Koenen, Michael | ATL | 78 | 3300 | 67 | 42.3 | 9 | 0 | 35 | 238 | 23 | 36.9 |
| Frost, Derrick | WAS | 76 | 3074 | 55 | 40.4 | 6 | 0 | 34 | 163 | 23 | 36.7 |
| Lee, Andy | SF | 107 | 4447 | 58 | 41.6 | 3 | 0 | 62 | 471 | 15 | 36.3 |
| Kluwe, Chris | MIN | 71 | 3130 | 62 | 44.1 | 6 | 0 | 41 | 470 | 17 | 35.8 |
| Barker, Bryan | STL | 50 | 2137 | 63 | 42.7 | 4 | 0 | 31 | 277 | 13 | 35.6 |
| Maynard, Brad | CHI | 96 | 3937 | 63 | 41.0 | 11 | 0 | 38 | 293 | 24 | 35.3 |
| Rouen, Tom | SEA | 61 | 2539 | 62 | 41.6 | 7 | 0 | 33 | 265 | 20 | 35.0 |
| Sander, B.J. | GB | 64 | 2508 | 53 | 39.2 | 2 | 0 | 45 | 297 | 11 | 33.9 |
| Hodges, Reggie | STL-PHI | 41 | 1535 | 55 | 37.4 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 142 | 9 | 32.2 |

BRUCE KLUCKHOHN / US PRESSWIRE

## RUSHING

| 84+ YARDS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Johnson, Larry | KC | 336 | 1750 | 5.2 | 49t | 20 |
| James, Edgerrin | IND | 360 | 1506 | 4.2 | 33 | 13 |
| Tomlinson, LaDainian | SD | 339 | 1462 | 4.3 | 62 | 18 |
| Johnson, Rudi | CIN | 337 | 1458 | 4.3 | 33 | 12 |
| McGahee, Willis | BUF | 325 | 1247 | 3.8 | 27 | 5 |
| Droughns, Reuben | CLE | 309 | 1232 | 4.0 | 75t | 2 |
| Parker, Willie | PIT | 255 | 1202 | 4.7 | 80t | 4 |
| Jordan, LaMont | OAK | 272 | 1025 | 3.8 | 26 | 9 |
| Anderson, Mike | DEN | 239 | 1014 | 4.2 | 44t | 12 |
| Davis, Domanick | HOU | 230 | 976 | 4.2 | 44 | 2 |
| Bell, Tatum | DEN | 173 | 921 | 5.3 | 68 | 8 |
| Brown, Ronnie | MIA | 207 | 907 | 4.4 | 65t | 4 |
| Lewis, Jamal | BAL | 269 | 906 | 3.4 | 25 | 3 |
| Brown, Chris | TEN | 224 | 851 | 3.8 | 38t | 5 |
| Taylor, Fred | JAX | 194 | 787 | 4.1 | 71t | 3 |
| Williams, Ricky | MIA | 168 | 743 | 4.4 | 35 | 6 |
| Martin, Curtis | NYJ | 220 | 735 | 3.3 | 49 | 5 |
| Dillon, Corey | NE | 209 | 733 | 3.5 | 29 | 12 |
| Jones, Greg | JAX | 151 | 575 | 3.8 | 27 | 4 |
| Taylor, Chester | BAL | 117 | 487 | 4.2 | 52 | 0 |
| Holmes, Priest | KC | 119 | 451 | 3.8 | 35t | 6 |
| Bettis, Jerome | PIT | 110 | 368 | 3.3 | 39 | 9 |
| Henry, Travis | TEN | 88 | 335 | 3.8 | 29 | 0 |
| Turner, Michael | SD | 57 | 335 | 5.9 | 83t | 3 |
| Wells, Jonathan | HOU | 90 | 325 | 3.6 | 14t | 4 |
| Carr, David | HOU | 56 | 308 | 5.5 | 20 | 1 |
| Houston, Cedric | NYJ | 81 | 302 | 3.7 | 17 | 2 |
| Perry, Chris | CIN | 61 | 279 | 4.6 | 30 | 0 |
| Haynes, Verron | PIT | 74 | 274 | 3.7 | 20 | 3 |
| Dayne, Ron | DEN | 53 | 270 | 5.1 | 55 | 1 |
| Pass, Patrick | NE | 54 | 245 | 4.5 | 31 | 3 |
| Crockett, Zack | OAK | 60 | 208 | 3.5 | 24 | 1 |
| Evans, Heath | MIA-NE | 52 | 192 | 3.7 | 21 | 0 |
| Morency, Vernand | HOU | 46 | 184 | 4.0 | 25t | 2 |
| Garrard, David | JAX | 31 | 172 | 5.5 | 28 | 3 |
| Williams, Shaud | BUF | 45 | 161 | 3.6 | 28 | 0 |
| Losman, J.P. | BUF | 31 | 154 | 5.0 | 30 | 0 |
| Plummer, Jake | DEN | 46 | 151 | 3.3 | 22 | 2 |
| Pearman, Alvin | JAX | 39 | 149 | 3.8 | 45 | 1 |
| Staley, Duce | PIT | 38 | 148 | 3.9 | 17 | 1 |
| Faulk, Kevin | NE | 51 | 145 | 2.8 | 13 | 0 |
| Toefield, LaBrandon | JAX | 36 | 142 | 3.9 | 32t | 4 |
| McNair, Steve | TEN | 32 | 139 | 4.3 | 19 | 1 |
| Bollinger, Brooks | NYJ | 35 | 135 | 3.9 | 15 | 0 |
| Rhodes, Dominic | IND | 40 | 118 | 3.0 | 24 | 4 |
| Payton, Jarrett | TEN | 33 | 105 | 3.2 | 15 | 2 |
| Neal, Lorenzo | SD | 29 | 98 | 3.4 | 9 | 0 |
| Chambers, Chris | MIA | 12 | 92 | 7.7 | 61 | 0 |
| Brady, Tom | NE | 27 | 89 | 3.3 | 15 | 1 |
| Lelie, Ashley | DEN | 5 | 84 | 16.8 | 39 | 0 |

## RECEIVING

| 37+ CATCHES | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Johnson, Chad | CIN | 97 | 1432 | 14.8 | 70t | 9 |
| Gates, Antonio | SD | 89 | 1101 | 12.4 | 38 | 10 |
| Mason, Derrick | BAL | 86 | 1073 | 12.5 | 39t | 3 |
| Smith, Rod | DEN | 85 | 1105 | 13.0 | 72 | 6 |
| Wayne, Reggie | IND | 83 | 1055 | 12.7 | 66t | 5 |
| Harrison, Marvin | IND | 82 | 1146 | 14.0 | 80t | 12 |
| Chambers, Chris | MIA | 82 | 1118 | 13.6 | 77t | 11 |
| Moulds, Eric | BUF | 81 | 816 | 10.1 | 55t | 4 |
| Branch, Deion | NE | 78 | 998 | 12.8 | 51 | 5 |
| Houshmandzadeh, T.J. | CIN | 78 | 956 | 12.3 | 43t | 7 |
| Gonzalez, Tony | KC | 78 | 905 | 11.6 | 39 | 2 |
| Porter, Jerry | OAK | 76 | 942 | 12.4 | 49t | 5 |
| Heap, Todd | BAL | 75 | 855 | 11.4 | 48 | 7 |
| Coles, Laveranues | NYJ | 73 | 845 | 11.6 | 43 | 5 |
| Smith, Jimmy | JAX | 70 | 1023 | 14.6 | 45t | 6 |
| McCardell, Keenan | SD | 70 | 917 | 13.1 | 54 | 9 |
| Jordan, LaMont | OAK | 70 | 563 | 8.0 | 28 | 2 |
| Bryant, Antonio | CLE | 69 | 1009 | 14.6 | 54 | 4 |
| Ward, Hines | PIT | 69 | 975 | 14.1 | 85t | 11 |
| Kennison, Eddie | KC | 68 | 1102 | 16.2 | 55 | 5 |
| Johnson, Andre | HOU | 63 | 688 | 10.9 | 53t | 2 |
| Moss, Randy | OAK | 60 | 1005 | 16.8 | 79 | 8 |
| McMichael, Randy | MIA | 60 | 582 | 9.7 | 30t | 5 |
| Givens, David | NE | 59 | 738 | 12.5 | 40 | 2 |
| Bennett, Drew | TEN | 58 | 738 | 12.7 | 55t | 4 |
| Parker, Eric | SD | 57 | 725 | 12.7 | 49 | 3 |
| Kinney, Erron | TEN | 55 | 543 | 9.9 | 27 | 2 |
| Troupe, Ben | TEN | 55 | 530 | 9.6 | 35 | 4 |
| Gaffney, Jabar | HOU | 55 | 492 | 8.9 | 29 | 2 |
| Tomlinson, LaDainian | SD | 51 | 370 | 7.3 | 41 | 2 |
| Perry, Chris | CIN | 51 | 328 | 6.4 | 28 | 2 |
| Evans, Lee | BUF | 48 | 743 | 15.5 | 65 | 7 |
| Clayton, Mark | BAL | 44 | 471 | 10.7 | 47t | 2 |
| James, Edgerrin | IND | 44 | 337 | 7.7 | 20 | 1 |
| McCareins, Justin | NYJ | 43 | 713 | 16.6 | 45 | 2 |
| Heiden, Steve | CLE | 43 | 401 | 9.3 | 62t | 3 |
| Lelie, Ashley | DEN | 42 | 770 | 18.3 | 56 | 1 |
| Northcutt, Dennis | CLE | 42 | 441 | 10.5 | 58t | 2 |
| Wilford, Ernest | JAX | 41 | 681 | 16.6 | 39 | 7 |
| Stokley, Brandon | IND | 41 | 543 | 13.2 | 45 | 1 |
| Taylor, Chester | BAL | 41 | 292 | 7.1 | 20 | 1 |
| Booker, Marty | MIA | 39 | 686 | 17.6 | 60t | 3 |
| Brown, Troy | NE | 39 | 466 | 11.9 | 71 | 2 |
| Miller, Heath | PIT | 39 | 459 | 11.8 | 50 | 6 |
| Droughns, Reuben | CLE | 39 | 369 | 9.5 | 51 | 0 |
| Davis, Domanick | HOU | 39 | 337 | 8.6 | 33 | 4 |
| Gabriel, Doug | OAK | 37 | 554 | 15.0 | 38 | 3 |
| Clark, Dallas | IND | 37 | 488 | 13.2 | 56 | 4 |
| Putzier, Jeb | DEN | 37 | 481 | 13.0 | 32 | 0 |
| Scaife, Bo | TEN | 37 | 273 | 7.4 | 19 | 2 |

KEVIN REECE

Brian Westbrook | RB, PHI

## RECEIVING

| 35+ CATCHES | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Smith, Steve | CAR | 103 | 1563 | 15.2 | 80t | 12 |
| Fitzgerald, Larry | ARI | 103 | 1409 | 13.7 | 47 | 10 |
| Boldin, Anquan | ARI | 102 | 1402 | 13.7 | 54t | 7 |
| Holt, Torry | STL | 102 | 1331 | 13.0 | 44 | 9 |
| Driver, Donald | GB | 86 | 1221 | 14.2 | 59 | 5 |
| Moss, Santana | WAS | 84 | 1483 | 17.7 | 78t | 9 |
| Galloway, Joey | TB | 83 | 1287 | 15.5 | 80t | 10 |
| Burress, Plaxico | NYG | 76 | 1214 | 16.0 | 78t | 7 |
| Johnson, Keyshawn | DAL | 71 | 839 | 11.8 | 34 | 6 |
| Cooley, Chris | WAS | 71 | 774 | 10.9 | 32 | 7 |
| Stallworth, Donte' | NO | 70 | 945 | 13.5 | 43 | 7 |
| Wiggins, Jermaine | MIN | 69 | 568 | 8.2 | 24 | 1 |
| Engram, Bobby | SEA | 67 | 778 | 11.6 | 56 | 3 |
| Witten, Jason | DAL | 66 | 757 | 11.5 | 34 | 6 |
| Shockey, Jeremy | NYG | 65 | 891 | 13.7 | 59 | 7 |
| Crumpler, Alge | ATL | 65 | 877 | 13.5 | 48 | 5 |
| Muhammad, Muhsin | CHI | 64 | 750 | 11.7 | 33 | 4 |
| Glenn, Terry | DAL | 62 | 1136 | 18.3 | 71t | 7 |
| Smith, L.J. | PHI | 61 | 682 | 11.2 | 48 | 3 |
| Westbrook, Brian | PHI | 61 | 616 | 10.1 | 62 | 4 |
| Curtis, Kevin | STL | 60 | 801 | 13.4 | 83t | 6 |
| Toomer, Amani | NYG | 60 | 684 | 11.4 | 37 | 7 |
| Jurevicius, Joe | SEA | 55 | 694 | 12.6 | 52 | 10 |
| Barber, Tiki | NYG | 54 | 530 | 9.8 | 48 | 2 |
| Finneran, Brian | ATL | 50 | 611 | 12.2 | 53 | 2 |
| Taylor, Travis | MIN | 50 | 604 | 12.1 | 31 | 4 |
| Horn, Joe | NO | 49 | 654 | 13.3 | 30 | 1 |
| Chatman, Antonio | GB | 49 | 549 | 11.2 | 25 | 4 |
| Lloyd, Brandon | SF | 48 | 733 | 15.3 | 89t | 5 |
| Lewis, Greg | PHI | 48 | 561 | 11.7 | 34 | 1 |
| Fisher, Tony | GB | 48 | 347 | 7.2 | 15 | 1 |
| Owens, Terrell | PHI | 47 | 763 | 16.2 | 91t | 6 |
| McDonald, Shaun | STL | 46 | 523 | 11.4 | 31 | 0 |
| Pollard, Marcus | DET | 46 | 516 | 11.2 | 86 | 3 |
| Williams, Roy | DET | 45 | 687 | 15.3 | 51t | 8 |
| Stevens, Jerramy | SEA | 45 | 554 | 12.3 | 35t | 5 |
| Faulk, Marshall | STL | 44 | 291 | 6.6 | 18 | 1 |
| Brown, Reggie | PHI | 43 | 571 | 13.3 | 56t | 4 |
| Jackson, Steven | STL | 43 | 320 | 7.4 | 27 | 2 |
| Smith, Alex | TB | 41 | 367 | 9.0 | 24 | 2 |
| Johnson, Bryant | ARI | 40 | 432 | 10.8 | 41 | 1 |
| Vines, Scott | DET | 40 | 417 | 10.4 | 40 | 0 |
| Jackson, Darrell | SEA | 38 | 482 | 12.7 | 48 | 3 |
| Moore, Mewelde | MIN | 37 | 339 | 9.2 | 29 | 2 |
| Bryson, Shawn | DET | 37 | 284 | 7.7 | 63 | 0 |
| Bruce, Isaac | STL | 36 | 525 | 14.6 | 46t | 3 |
| Jenkins, Michael | ATL | 36 | 508 | 14.1 | 58 | 3 |
| Pittman, Michael | TB | 36 | 300 | 8.3 | 41t | 1 |
| Hilton, Zach | NO | 35 | 396 | 11.3 | 29 | 1 |
| Hilliard, Ike | TB | 35 | 282 | 8.1 | 22 | 1 |
| Stecker, Aaron | NO | 35 | 281 | 8.0 | 41 | 0 |
| Shipp, Marcel | ARI | 35 | 255 | 7.3 | 28 | 0 |
| Jones, Julius | DAL | 35 | 218 | 6.2 | 26 | 0 |

## RUSHING

| 105+ YARDS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alexander, Shaun | SEA | 370 | 1880 | 5.1 | 88t | 27 |
| Barber, Tiki | NYG | 357 | 1860 | 5.2 | 95t | 9 |
| Portis, Clinton | WAS | 352 | 1516 | 4.3 | 47t | 11 |
| Dunn, Warrick | ATL | 280 | 1416 | 5.1 | 65 | 3 |
| Jones, Thomas | CHI | 314 | 1335 | 4.3 | 42 | 9 |
| Williams, Carnell | TB | 290 | 1178 | 4.1 | 71t | 6 |
| Jackson, Steven | STL | 254 | 1046 | 4.1 | 51 | 8 |
| Jones, Julius | DAL | 257 | 993 | 3.9 | 51 | 5 |
| Foster, DeShaun | CAR | 205 | 879 | 4.3 | 70t | 2 |
| Jones, Kevin | DET | 186 | 664 | 3.6 | 40 | 5 |
| Moore, Mewelde | MIN | 155 | 662 | 4.3 | 33 | 1 |
| Smith, Antowain | NO | 166 | 659 | 4.0 | 42 | 3 |
| Westbrook, Brian | PHI | 156 | 617 | 4.0 | 31 | 3 |
| Gore, Frank | SF | 127 | 608 | 4.8 | 72t | 3 |
| Vick, Michael | ATL | 102 | 597 | 5.9 | 32 | 6 |
| Gado, Samkon | GB | 143 | 582 | 4.1 | 64t | 6 |
| Barlow, Kevan | SF | 176 | 581 | 3.3 | 29 | 3 |
| Davis, Stephen | CAR | 180 | 549 | 3.1 | 39 | 12 |
| Barber, Marion | DAL | 138 | 538 | 3.9 | 28t | 5 |
| Bennett, Michael | MIN | 126 | 473 | 3.8 | 61t | 3 |
| Shipp, Marcel | ARI | 157 | 451 | 2.9 | 19 | 0 |
| Pittman, Michael | TB | 70 | 436 | 6.2 | 64 | 1 |
| Peterson, Adrian | CHI | 76 | 391 | 5.1 | 36 | 2 |
| Duckett, T.J. | ATL | 121 | 380 | 3.1 | 25 | 8 |
| Arrington, J.J. | ARI | 112 | 370 | 3.3 | 32 | 2 |
| Stecker, Aaron | NO | 95 | 363 | 3.8 | 32 | 0 |
| Pinner, Artose | DET | 106 | 349 | 3.3 | 19 | 3 |
| Betts, Ladell | WAS | 89 | 338 | 3.8 | 22 | 1 |
| McAllister, Deuce | NO | 93 | 335 | 3.6 | 26 | 3 |
| Hicks, Maurice | SF | 59 | 308 | 5.2 | 73t | 3 |
| Bryson, Shawn | DET | 64 | 306 | 4.8 | 77t | 1 |
| Faulk, Marshall | STL | 65 | 292 | 4.5 | 20 | 0 |
| Morris, Maurice | SEA | 71 | 288 | 4.1 | 49 | 1 |
| Brooks, Aaron | NO | 45 | 281 | 6.2 | 22 | 2 |
| Moats, Ryan | PHI | 55 | 278 | 5.1 | 59t | 3 |
| Benson, Cedric | CHI | 67 | 272 | 4.1 | 36 | 0 |
| Green, Ahman | GB | 77 | 255 | 3.3 | 13 | 0 |
| Cartwright, Rock | WAS | 27 | 199 | 7.4 | 52 | 2 |
| Gordon, Lamar | PHI | 54 | 182 | 3.4 | 11 | 1 |
| Thompson, Tyson | DAL | 46 | 182 | 4.0 | 16 | 0 |
| Fisher, Tony | GB | 60 | 173 | 2.9 | 17 | 1 |
| Culpepper, Daunte | MIN | 24 | 147 | 6.1 | 18 | 1 |
| McCown, Josh | ARI | 29 | 139 | 4.8 | 12 | 0 |
| Goings, Nick | CAR | 37 | 133 | 3.6 | 17 | 0 |
| Hasselbeck, Matt | SEA | 36 | 124 | 3.4 | 23 | 1 |
| Herron, Noah | PIT-GB | 48 | 123 | 2.6 | 17 | 2 |
| Ward, Derrick | NYG | 35 | 123 | 3.5 | 12 | 0 |
| McMahon, Mike | PHI | 34 | 118 | 3.5 | 19 | 3 |
| Brunell, Mark | WAS | 42 | 111 | 2.6 | 25 | 0 |
| Davenport, Najeh | GB | 30 | 105 | 3.5 | 24 | 2 |

**Carnell 'Cadillac' Williams**
RB, TB

TOP TO BOTTOM: MIKE ALLEN; LES BENTLEY

## INTERCEPTIONS

| 2+ INTERCEPTIONS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Law, Ty | NYJ | 10 | 195 | 19.5 | 74t | 1 |
| O'Neal, Deltha | CIN | 10 | 103 | 10.3 | 37 | 0 |
| Bailey, Champ | DEN | 8 | 139 | 17.4 | 65t | 2 |
| Wesley, Greg | KC | 6 | 106 | 17.7 | 51 | 0 |
| June, Cato | IND | 5 | 115 | 23.0 | 36 | 2 |
| Mathis, Rashean | JAX | 5 | 79 | 15.8 | 41t | 1 |
| Ferguson, Nick | DEN | 5 | 59 | 11.8 | 30 | 0 |
| Thurman, Odell | CIN | 5 | 59 | 11.8 | 30t | 1 |
| Barrett, David | NYJ | 5 | 28 | 5.6 | 13 | 0 |
| James, Tory | CIN | 5 | 5 | 1.0 | 5 | 0 |
| McGee, Terrence | BUF | 4 | 97 | 24.3 | 46t | 1 |
| Schulters, Lance | MIA | 4 | 78 | 19.5 | 37 | 0 |
| Vincent, Troy | BUF | 4 | 78 | 19.5 | 42 | 0 |
| Surtain, Patrick | KC | 4 | 57 | 14.3 | 53 | 0 |
| Cousin, Terry | JAX | 4 | 18 | 4.5 | 14 | 0 |
| Hill, Reynaldo | TEN | 3 | 88 | 29.3 | 52t | 1 |
| Hope, Chris | PIT | 3 | 60 | 20.0 | 55 | 0 |
| Peterson, Mike | JAX | 3 | 54 | 18.0 | 26t | 1 |
| Ratliff, Keiwan | CIN | 3 | 52 | 17.3 | 35 | 0 |
| Brackett, Gary | IND | 3 | 50 | 16.7 | 31 | 0 |
| Russell, Brian | CLE | 3 | 50 | 16.7 | 37 | 0 |
| Harper, Nick | IND | 3 | 41 | 13.7 | 21 | 0 |
| Tillman, Travares | MIA | 3 | 38 | 12.7 | 22 | 0 |
| Grant, Deon | JAX | 3 | 29 | 9.7 | 29 | 0 |
| Jue, Bhawoh | SD | 3 | 28 | 9.3 | 20 | 0 |
| Samuel, Asante | NE | 3 | 15 | 5.0 | 15 | 0 |
| Kaesviharn, Kevin | CIN | 3 | 9 | 3.0 | 6 | 0 |
| Hobbs, Ellis | NE | 3 | 8 | 2.7 | 8 | 0 |
| Bodden, Leigh | CLE | 3 | 6 | 2.0 | 6 | 0 |
| Williams, Darrent | DEN | 2 | 108 | 54.0 | 80t | 1 |
| Sanders, Deion | BAL | 2 | 57 | 28.5 | 33 | 0 |
| Brown, Mark | NYJ | 2 | 51 | 25.5 | 33t | 1 |
| Thomas, Adalius | BAL | 2 | 48 | 24.0 | 28 | 1 |
| Polamalu, Troy | PIT | 2 | 42 | 21.0 | 36 | 0 |
| Suggs, Terrell | BAL | 2 | 38 | 19.0 | 38 | 0 |
| Crocker, Chris | CLE | 2 | 35 | 17.5 | 24 | 0 |
| Schweigert, Stuart | OAK | 2 | 35 | 17.5 | 33 | 0 |
| Townsend, Deshea | PIT | 2 | 26 | 13.0 | 26 | 0 |
| Foxworth, Domonique | DEN | 2 | 23 | 11.5 | 23 | 0 |
| Vrabel, Mike | NE | 2 | 23 | 11.5 | 24t | 1 |
| Bulluck, Keith | TEN | 2 | 16 | 8.0 | 16 | 0 |
| Edwards, Donnie | SD | 2 | 15 | 7.5 | 14 | 0 |
| Simmons, Brian | CIN | 2 | 15 | 7.5 | 16 | 0 |
| McCutcheon, Daylon | CLE | 2 | 14 | 7.0 | 14 | 0 |
| David, Jason | IND | 2 | 13 | 6.5 | 13 | 0 |
| Knight, Sammy | KC | 2 | 12 | 6.0 | 12 | 0 |
| Madison, Sam | MIA | 2 | 11 | 5.5 | 11 | 0 |
| Baxter, Gary | CLE | 2 | 10 | 5.0 | 10 | 0 |
| Porter, Joey | PIT | 2 | 9 | 4.5 | 9 | 0 |
| Doss, Mike | IND | 2 | 8 | 4.0 | 8 | 0 |
| Coleman, Erik | NYJ | 2 | 4 | 2.0 | 4 | 0 |
| Wright, Kenny | JAX | 2 | 4 | 2.0 | 4 | 0 |
| Crowell, Angelo | BUF | 2 | 3 | 1.5 | 2 | 0 |
| Earl, Glenn | HOU | 2 | 2 | 1.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Lynch, John | DEN | 2 | 2 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 |
| Clements, Nate | BUF | 2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| McCleon, Dexter | KC | 2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |

## KICK RETURNS

| 20+ RETURNS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| McGee, Terrence | BUF | 46 | 1391 | 30.2 | 99t | 1 |
| Mathis, Jerome | HOU | 54 | 1542 | 28.6 | 99t | 2 |
| Miller, Justin | NYJ | 60 | 1577 | 26.3 | 95t | 1 |
| Jones, Adam | TEN | 43 | 1127 | 26.2 | 85 | 0 |
| Morgan, Quincy | PIT | 23 | 583 | 25.3 | 74 | 0 |
| Wimbush, Derrick | JAX | 39 | 955 | 24.5 | 91t | 1 |
| Perry, Tab | CIN | 64 | 1562 | 24.4 | 94 | 0 |
| Cribbs, Josh | CLE | 45 | 1094 | 24.3 | 90t | 1 |
| Sproles, Darren | SD | 63 | 1528 | 24.3 | 58 | 0 |
| Carr, Chris | OAK | 73 | 1752 | 24.0 | 62 | 0 |
| Hall, Dante | KC | 65 | 1560 | 24.0 | 96t | 1 |
| Sams, B.J. | BAL | 44 | 998 | 22.7 | 87 | 0 |
| Welker, Wes | MIA | 61 | 1379 | 22.6 | 46 | 0 |
| Roby, Courtney | TEN | 22 | 495 | 22.5 | 59 | 0 |
| Johnson, Bethel | NE | 31 | 694 | 22.4 | 54 | 0 |
| Morency, Vernand | HOU | 20 | 437 | 21.9 | 31 | 0 |
| Colclough, Ricardo | PIT | 22 | 473 | 21.5 | 63 | 0 |
| Rhodes, Dominic | IND | 41 | 855 | 20.9 | 39 | 0 |

## PUNT RETURNS

| 21+ RETURNS | TEAM | NO | FC | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sams, B.J. | BAL | 33 | 10 | 401 | 12.2 | 51 | 0 |
| Northcutt, Dennis | CLE | 35 | 13 | 368 | 10.5 | 62t | 1 |
| Randle El, Antwaan | PIT | 44 | 12 | 448 | 10.2 | 81t | 2 |
| Wade, Bobby | CHI-TEN | 33 | 9 | 317 | 9.6 | 73t | 1 |
| Jones, Adam | TEN | 29 | 8 | 272 | 9.4 | 52t | 1 |
| Welker, Wes | MIA | 43 | 23 | 390 | 9.1 | 47 | 0 |
| Dwight, Tim | NE | 32 | 13 | 273 | 8.5 | 29 | 0 |
| Pearman, Alvin | JAX | 49 | 15 | 410 | 8.4 | 24 | 0 |
| Walters, Troy | IND | 21 | 25 | 172 | 8.2 | 29 | 0 |
| Cotchery, Jerricho | NYJ | 23 | 7 | 182 | 7.9 | 18 | 0 |
| Hall, Dante | KC | 42 | 6 | 276 | 6.6 | 52 | 0 |
| Ratliff, Keiwan | CIN | 28 | 14 | 157 | 5.6 | 13 | 0 |
| Carr, Chris | OAK | 34 | 7 | 186 | 5.5 | 34 | 0 |

## SACKS

| 4.0+ SACKS | TEAM | NO |
|---|---|---|
| Burgess, Derrick | OAK | 16.0 |
| Vanden Bosch, Kyle | TEN | 12.5 |
| Schobel, Aaron | BUF | 12.0 |
| Taylor, Jason | MIA | 12.0 |
| Mathis, Robert | IND | 11.5 |
| Allen, Jared | KC | 11.0 |
| Freeney, Dwight | IND | 11.0 |
| Abraham, John | NYJ | 10.5 |
| Porter, Joey | PIT | 10.5 |
| Merriman, Shawne | SD | 10.0 |
| Haggans, Clark | PIT | 9.0 |
| Thomas, Adalius | BAL | 9.0 |
| Hayward, Reggie | JAX | 8.5 |
| Suggs, Terrell | BAL | 8.0 |
| Spicer, Paul | JAX | 7.5 |
| Colvin, Rosevelt | NE | 7.0 |
| Orr, Shantee | HOU | 7.0 |
| Phillips, Shaun | SD | 7.0 |
| Brock, Raheem | IND | 6.5 |
| LaBoy, Travis | TEN | 6.5 |
| Bowens, David | MIA | 6.0 |
| Carter, Kevin | MIA | 6.0 |
| McGinest, Willie | NE | 6.0 |
| Meier, Rob | JAX | 6.0 |
| Peek, Antwan | HOU | 6.0 |
| Peterson, Mike | JAX | 6.0 |
| Smith, Justin | CIN | 6.0 |

| 4.0+ SACKS | TEAM | NO |
|---|---|---|
| McCray, Bobby | JAX | 5.5 |
| Reagor, Montae | IND | 5.5 |
| Bulluck, Keith | TEN | 5.0 |
| Holliday, Vonnie | MIA | 5.0 |
| McKinley, Alvin | CLE | 5.0 |
| Sapp, Warren | OAK | 5.0 |
| Thompson, Chaun | CLE | 5.0 |
| Foley, Steve | SD | 4.5 |
| Kelly, Tommy | OAK | 4.5 |
| Pollack, David | CIN | 4.5 |
| Scott, DeQuincy | SD | 4.5 |
| Vrabel, Mike | NE | 4.5 |
| Babin, Jason | HOU | 4.0 |
| Denney, Ryan | BUF | 4.0 |
| Ekuban, Ebenezer | DEN | 4.0 |
| Fletcher, London | BUF | 4.0 |
| Hicks, Eric | KC | 4.0 |
| Lynch, John | DEN | 4.0 |
| Payne, Seth | HOU | 4.0 |
| Polley, Tommy | BAL | 4.0 |
| Pryce, Trevor | DEN | 4.0 |
| Scott, Bart | BAL | 4.0 |
| Seymour, Richard | NE | 4.0 |
| Simmons, Brian | CIN | 4.0 |
| Smith, Daryl | JAX | 4.0 |
| Tripplett, Larry | IND | 4.0 |

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: RICH KANE, JUSTIN KASE CONDER / US PRESSWIRE; KEVIN REECE

Ty Law | CB, NYJ

Warren Sapp | DT, OAK

# RECORDS

### TEAM SCORING
*Points:* 556, Minnesota (1998)

### PASSING
*Completions:* 418, Rich Gannon, Oakland (2002)
*Touchdowns:* 49, Peyton Manning, Indianapolis (2004)
*Yards:* 5,084, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)
*Longest TD:* 10 tied with 99 yards, most recent Jeff Garcia to Andre Davis, Cleveland (2004)

### SCORING KICKERS
*Points:* 176, Paul Hornung, Green Bay (1960)
*Field Goals:* 39, Olindo Mare, Miami (1999); Jeff Wilkins, St. Louis (2003)
*Extra Points:* 66, Uwe von Schamann, Miami (1984)

### SCORING NON-KICKERS
*Touchdowns:* 28, Shaun Alexander, Seattle (2005)

### RUSHING
*Carries:* 410, Jamal Anderson, Atlanta (1998)
*Yards:* 2,105, Eric Dickerson, L.A. Rams (1984)
*Touchdowns:* 27, Priest Holmes, Kansas City (2003); Shaun Alexander, Seattle (2005)

### RECEIVING
*Receptions:* 143, Marvin Harrison, Indianapolis (2002)
*Yards:* 1,848, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1995)
*Touchdowns:* 22, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1987)

**Shaun Alexander** | RB, SEA

## SACKS

| 3.5+ SACKS | TEAM | NO |
|---|---|---|
| Umenyiora, Osi | NYG | 14.5 |
| Rice, Simeon | TB | 14.0 |
| Strahan, Michael | NYG | 11.5 |
| Coleman, Rod | ATL | 10.5 |
| Peppers, Julius | CAR | 10.5 |
| Ogunleye, Adewale | CHI | 10.0 |
| Little, Leonard | STL | 9.5 |
| Fisher, Bryce | SEA | 9.0 |
| Bernard, Rocky | SEA | 8.5 |
| Smith, Will | NO | 8.5 |
| Daniels, Phillip | WAS | 8.0 |
| Ellis, Greg | DAL | 8.0 |
| Gbaja-Biamila, Kabeer | GB | 8.0 |
| Ware, DeMarcus | DAL | 8.0 |
| Wilson, Adrian | ARI | 8.0 |
| Young, Bryant | SF | 8.0 |
| Hill, Leroy | SEA | 7.5 |
| Johnstone, Lance | MIN | 7.5 |
| Kearse, Jevon | PHI | 7.5 |
| Okeafor, Chike | ARI | 7.5 |
| Rucker, Mike | CAR | 7.5 |
| Washington, Marcus | WAS | 7.5 |
| Edwards, Kalimba | DET | 7.0 |
| Hargrove, Anthony | STL | 6.5 |
| Kampman, Aaron | GB | 6.5 |
| Kerney, Patrick | ATL | 6.5 |
| Berry, Bertrand | ARI | 6.0 |
| Brown, Alex | CHI | 6.0 |

| 3.5+ SACKS | TEAM | NO |
|---|---|---|
| Urlacher, Brian | CHI | 6.0 |
| Rogers, Shaun | DET | 5.5 |
| Tubbs, Marcus | SEA | 5.5 |
| Cole, Trent | PHI | 5.0 |
| Hall, James | DET | 5.0 |
| Johnson, Tank | CHI | 5.0 |
| Moore, Brandon | SF | 5.0 |
| Moorehead, Kindal | CAR | 5.0 |
| Wallace, Al | CAR | 5.0 |
| Carter, Andre | SF | 4.5 |
| Bryant, Tony | NO | 4.0 |
| Carstens, Jordan | CAR | 4.0 |
| Dansby, Karlos | ARI | 4.0 |
| Griffin, Cornelius | WAS | 4.0 |
| James, Erasmus | MIN | 4.0 |
| Scott, Darrion | MIN | 4.0 |
| Spires, Greg | TB | 4.0 |
| Tatupu, Lofa | SEA | 4.0 |
| Williams, Kevin | MIN | 4.0 |
| Wistrom, Grant | SEA | 4.0 |
| Archuleta, Adam | STL | 3.5 |
| Brooking, Keith | ATL | 3.5 |
| Dawkins, Brian | PHI | 3.5 |
| Howard, Darren | NO | 3.5 |
| Lake, Antwan | ATL | 3.5 |
| Patterson, Mike | PHI | 3.5 |

## KICK RETURNS

| 20+ RETURNS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Robinson, Koren | MIN | 47 | 1221 | 26.0 | 86t | 1 |
| Betts, Ladell | WAS | 24 | 621 | 25.9 | 94t | 1 |
| Ponder, Willie | NYG | 35 | 905 | 25.9 | 95t | 1 |
| Thompson, Tyson | DAL | 57 | 1399 | 24.5 | 49 | 0 |
| Hood, Roderick | PHI | 38 | 900 | 23.7 | 53 | 0 |
| Morton, Chad | NYG | 24 | 559 | 23.3 | 41 | 0 |
| Swinton, Reggie | ARI | 63 | 1456 | 23.1 | 90 | 0 |
| Johnson, Chris | STL | 38 | 857 | 22.6 | 99t | 1 |
| Rossum, Allen | ATL | 31 | 702 | 22.6 | 47 | 0 |
| Scobey, Josh | SEA | 59 | 1326 | 22.5 | 53 | 0 |
| Azumah, Jerry | CHI | 32 | 705 | 22.0 | 40 | 0 |
| Drummond, Eddie | DET | 49 | 1077 | 22.0 | 48 | 0 |
| McAfee, Fred | NO | 22 | 485 | 22.0 | 34 | 0 |
| Stecker, Aaron | NO | 31 | 672 | 21.7 | 46 | 0 |
| Smart, Rod | CAR | 29 | 615 | 21.2 | 60 | 0 |
| Shepherd, Edell | TB | 20 | 414 | 20.7 | 30 | 0 |
| Allen, David | STL | 23 | 472 | 20.5 | 32 | 0 |
| Hicks, Maurice | SF | 34 | 689 | 20.3 | 40 | 0 |
| Cox, Torrie | TB | 24 | 464 | 19.3 | 30 | 0 |
| Marshall, Rasheed | SF | 26 | 488 | 18.8 | 29 | 0 |

## PUNT RETURNS

| 21+ RETURNS | TEAM | NO | FC | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mahe, Reno | PHI | 21 | 9 | 269 | 12.8 | 44 | 0 |
| Moore, Mewelde | MIN | 21 | 9 | 245 | 11.7 | 71t | 1 |
| Smith, Steve | CAR | 27 | 6 | 286 | 10.6 | 44 | 0 |
| Jones, Mark | TB | 51 | 18 | 492 | 9.6 | 31 | 0 |
| Morton, Chad | NYG | 47 | 16 | 453 | 9.6 | 58 | 1 |
| Chatman, Antonio | GB | 45 | 18 | 381 | 8.5 | 85t | 1 |
| Swinton, Reggie | ARI | 42 | 14 | 334 | 8.0 | 32 | 0 |
| Hakim, Az-Zahir | NO | 34 | 4 | 260 | 7.6 | 42 | 0 |
| Crayton, Patrick | DAL | 23 | 9 | 166 | 7.2 | 25 | 0 |
| Drummond, Eddie | DET | 26 | 11 | 157 | 6.0 | 38 | 0 |
| Williams, Jimmy | SEA | 24 | 22 | 139 | 5.8 | 24 | 0 |
| Wynn, Dexter | PHI | 22 | 10 | 110 | 5.0 | 27 | 0 |

## INTERCEPTIONS

| 2+ INTERCEPTIONS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sharper, Darren | MIN | 9 | 276 | 30.7 | 92t | 2 |
| Vasher, Nathan | CHI | 8 | 145 | 18.1 | 46 | 1 |
| Gamble, Chris | CAR | 7 | 157 | 22.4 | 61t | 1 |
| Hall, DeAngelo | ATL | 6 | 177 | 29.5 | 65 | 0 |
| Lucas, Ken | CAR | 6 | 70 | 11.7 | 32 | 0 |
| Bly, Dre' | DET | 6 | 54 | 9.0 | 28 | 0 |
| Tillman, Charles | CHI | 5 | 172 | 34.4 | 95 | 1 |
| Barber, Ronde | TB | 5 | 105 | 21.0 | 42 | 0 |
| Furrey, Mike | STL | 4 | 143 | 35.8 | 67t | 1 |
| Boulware, Michael | SEA | 4 | 107 | 26.8 | 40 | 0 |
| Spencer, Shawntae | SF | 4 | 85 | 21.3 | 61t | 1 |
| Brown, Sheldon | PHI | 4 | 67 | 16.8 | 40t | 1 |
| Williams, Brian | MIN | 4 | 59 | 14.8 | 31 | 0 |
| Marshall, Lemar | WAS | 4 | 55 | 13.8 | 27 | 1 |
| Brooking, Keith | ATL | 4 | 50 | 12.5 | 22 | 0 |
| Alexander, Brent | NYG | 4 | 45 | 11.3 | 24 | 0 |
| Adams, Mike | SF | 4 | 36 | 9.0 | 40t | 1 |
| Kelly, Brian | TB | 4 | 19 | 4.8 | 14 | 0 |
| Glenn, Aaron | DAL | 4 | 10 | 2.5 | 10 | 0 |
| Winfield, Antoine | MIN | 4 | 5 | 1.3 | 4 | 0 |
| Brown, Mike | CHI | 3 | 116 | 38.7 | 72 | 1 |
| Henry, Anthony | DAL | 3 | 102 | 34.0 | 58t | 1 |
| McCree, Marlon | CAR | 3 | 73 | 24.3 | 46 | 0 |
| Sheppard, Lito | PHI | 3 | 72 | 24.0 | 34 | 0 |
| Craft, Jason | NO | 3 | 63 | 21.0 | 39 | 0 |
| Babineaux, Jordan | SEA | 3 | 56 | 18.7 | 25 | 0 |
| Tatupu, Lofa | SEA | 3 | 55 | 18.3 | 38t | 1 |
| Williams, Roy | DAL | 3 | 52 | 17.3 | 46t | 1 |
| Harris, Chris | CHI | 3 | 44 | 14.7 | 44 | 0 |
| Dansby, Karlos | ARI | 3 | 31 | 10.3 | 18t | 2 |
| Harris, Al | GB | 3 | 30 | 10.0 | 22t | 1 |
| Allen, Will | TB | 3 | 26 | 8.7 | 26 | 0 |
| Dawkins, Brian | PHI | 3 | 24 | 8.0 | 24 | 0 |
| Goodman, Andre' | DET | 3 | 17 | 5.7 | 21 | 0 |
| Hood, Roderick | PHI | 3 | 17 | 5.7 | 17 | 0 |
| Newman, Terence | DAL | 3 | 16 | 5.3 | 12 | 0 |
| Clark, Ryan | WAS | 3 | 10 | 3.3 | 6 | 0 |
| Macklin, David | ARI | 2 | 79 | 39.5 | 60t | 1 |
| Kennedy, Kenoy | DET | 2 | 64 | 32.0 | 64t | 1 |
| Smith, Dwight | NO | 2 | 53 | 26.5 | 28 | 0 |
| Holt, Terrence | DET | 2 | 51 | 25.5 | 51 | 0 |
| Tate, Robert | ARI | 2 | 47 | 23.5 | 25 | 0 |
| Bolden, Juran | TB | 2 | 46 | 23.0 | 28 | 0 |
| Pierce, Antonio | NYG | 2 | 41 | 20.5 | 24 | 0 |
| Carroll, Ahmad | GB | 2 | 38 | 19.0 | 38 | 0 |
| Wallace, Al | CAR | 2 | 38 | 19.0 | 38 | 0 |
| Wilson, Gibril | NYG | 2 | 36 | 18.0 | 19 | 0 |
| Tinoisamoa, Pisa | STL | 2 | 35 | 17.5 | 20 | 0 |
| Witherspoon, Will | CAR | 2 | 35 | 17.5 | 35t | 1 |
| Parrish, Tony | SF | 2 | 34 | 17.0 | 34t | 1 |
| Taylor, Sean | WAS | 2 | 34 | 17.0 | 32 | 0 |
| Williams, Shaun | NYG | 2 | 34 | 17.0 | 34 | 0 |
| Briggs, Lance | CHI | 2 | 30 | 15.0 | 20 | 1 |
| McQuarters, R.W. | DET | 2 | 25 | 12.5 | 19 | 0 |
| Darling, James | ARI | 2 | 22 | 11.0 | 15 | 0 |
| Manning, Ricky | CAR | 2 | 20 | 10.0 | 10 | 0 |
| Roman, Mark | GB | 2 | 18 | 9.0 | 12 | 0 |
| Butler, James | NYG | 2 | 16 | 8.0 | 16 | 0 |
| Rogers, Carlos | WAS | 2 | 14 | 7.0 | 14 | 0 |
| Lewis, Michael | PHI | 2 | 13 | 6.5 | 13 | 0 |
| Herndon, Kelly | SEA | 2 | 12 | 6.0 | 10 | 0 |
| Williams, Demorrio | ATL | 2 | 6 | 3.0 | 6 | 0 |
| Williams, Jimmy | SEA | 2 | 6 | 3.0 | 6 | 0 |
| Thomas, Fred | NO | 2 | 4 | 2.0 | 4 | 0 |
| Carpenter, Keion | ATL | 2 | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 0 |
| Chavous, Corey | MIN | 2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Groce, DeJuan | STL | 2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Smoot, Fred | MIN | 2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Thornton, Bruce | SF | 2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |

MIKE ALLEN

### INTERCEPTIONS
*Number:* 14, Dick "Night Train" Lane, L.A. Rams (1952)
*Return Yards:* 358, Ed Reed, Baltimore Ravens (2004)
*Longest TD Return:* 106 yards, Ed Reed, Baltimore Ravens (2004)
*Touchdowns:* 4, Ken Houston, Houston (1971); Jim Kearney, Kansas City (1972); Eric Allen, Philadelphia (1993)

### PUNTING
*Number:* 114, Bob Parsons, Chicago (1981); Chad Stanley, Houston (2002)
*Average:* 51.4, Sammy Baugh, Washington (1940)
*Longest:* 98 yards, Steve O'Neal, N.Y. Jets (1969)

### PUNT RETURNS
*Number:* 70, Danny Reece, Tampa Bay (1979)
*Yards:* 875, Desmond Howard, Green Bay (1996)
*Longest TD:* 103 yards, Robert Bailey, L.A. Rams (1994)
*Touchdowns:* 4, Jack Christiansen, Detroit (1951); Rick Upchurch, Denver (1976)

### KICK RETURNS
*Number:* 82, MarTay Jenkins, Arizona (2000)
*Yards:* 2,186, MarTay Jenkins, Arizona (2000)
*Longest TD:* 106 yards, Al Carmichael, Green Bay (1956); Noland Smith, Kansas City (1967); Roy Green, St. Louis (1979)
*Touchdowns:* 4, Travis Williams, Green Bay (1967); Cecil Turner, Chicago (1970)

### SACKS
*Number:* 22.5, Michael Strahan, N.Y. Giants (2001)

# 2005 SEASON RECAP

## AFC

| EAST DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New England | 10 | 6 | 0 | .625 | 379 | 338 |
| Miami | 9 | 7 | 0 | .562 | 318 | 317 |
| Buffalo | 5 | 11 | 0 | .312 | 271 | 367 |
| N.Y. Jets | 4 | 12 | 0 | .250 | 240 | 355 |

| NORTH DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cincinnati | 11 | 5 | 0 | .688 | 421 | 350 |
| Pittsburgh* | 11 | 5 | 0 | .688 | 389 | 258 |
| Baltimore | 6 | 10 | 0 | .375 | 265 | 299 |
| Cleveland | 6 | 10 | 0 | .375 | 232 | 301 |

| SOUTH DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indianapolis | 14 | 2 | 0 | .875 | 439 | 247 |
| Jacksonville* | 12 | 4 | 0 | .750 | 361 | 269 |
| Tennessee | 4 | 12 | 0 | .250 | 299 | 421 |
| Houston | 2 | 14 | 0 | .125 | 260 | 431 |

| WEST DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 13 | 3 | 0 | .812 | 395 | 258 |
| Kansas City | 10 | 6 | 0 | .625 | 403 | 325 |
| San Diego | 9 | 7 | 0 | .562 | 418 | 312 |
| Oakland | 4 | 12 | 0 | .250 | 290 | 383 |

** wild card*

## NFC

| EAST DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N.Y. Giants | 11 | 5 | 0 | .688 | 422 | 314 |
| Washington* | 10 | 6 | 0 | .625 | 359 | 293 |
| Dallas | 9 | 7 | 0 | .562 | 325 | 308 |
| Philadelphia | 6 | 10 | 0 | .375 | 310 | 388 |

| NORTH DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago | 11 | 5 | 0 | .688 | 260 | 202 |
| Minnesota | 9 | 7 | 0 | .562 | 306 | 344 |
| Detroit | 5 | 11 | 0 | .312 | 254 | 345 |
| Green Bay | 4 | 12 | 0 | .250 | 298 | 344 |

| SOUTH DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tampa Bay | 11 | 5 | 0 | .688 | 300 | 274 |
| Carolina* | 11 | 5 | 0 | .688 | 391 | 259 |
| Atlanta | 8 | 8 | 0 | .500 | 351 | 341 |
| New Orleans | 3 | 13 | 0 | .188 | 235 | 398 |

| WEST DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Seattle | 13 | 3 | 0 | .812 | 452 | 271 |
| St. Louis | 6 | 10 | 0 | .375 | 363 | 429 |
| Arizona | 5 | 11 | 0 | .312 | 311 | 387 |
| San Francisco | 4 | 12 | 0 | .250 | 239 | 428 |

** wild card*

### WILD CARD GAMES

| | |
|---|---|
| Jacksonville | 3 |
| ▶ NEW ENGLAND | 28 |
| ▶ PITTSBURGH | 31 |
| Cincinnati | 17 |
| ▶ WASHINGTON | 17 |
| Tampa Bay | 10 |
| ▶ CAROLINA | 23 |
| New York Giants | 0 |

### DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

| | |
|---|---|
| New England | 13 |
| ▶ DENVER | 27 |
| ▶ PITTSBURGH | 21 |
| Indianapolis | 18 |
| Washington | 10 |
| ▶ SEATTLE | 20 |
| ▶ CAROLINA | 29 |
| Chicago | 21 |

### CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

| | |
|---|---|
| Denver | 17 |
| ▶ PITTSBURGH | 34 |
| ▶ SEATTLE | 34 |
| Carolina | 14 |

### SUPER BOWL XL

Steelers ◀ over ▶

21 — 10

ROW 1 TOP TO BOTTOM: DOUG STEINBOCK, MATTHEW EMMONS / US PRESSWIRE; MARGARET BOWLES / ICON SMI; RICH KANE / US PRESSWIRE; ROW 2 TOP TO BOTTOM: BYRON HETZLER / US PRESSWIRE; JASON COHN / ICON SMI; SCOTT COHEN / US PRESSWIRE; JOHN GRESS / ICON SMI; ROW 3 TOP TO BOTTOM: JOE ROBBINS, BOB DONNAN / US PRESSWIRE; FACING PAGE: ALBERT DICKSON / TSN / ZUMA PRESS / ICON SMI

# SUPER BOWL XL

at **Ford Field, Detroit, Feb. 5, 2006**
Attendance: **68,206**

| TEAM STATISTICS | SEATTLE | PITTSBURGH |
|---|---|---|
| Total net rushing | 137 | 181 |
| Total net passing | 259 | 158 |
| Total net yards | 396 | 339 |
| First downs | 20 | 14 |
| Sacked-Yards lost | 3-14 | 1-8 |
| Third-down conversions | 5-17 | 8-15 |
| Fourth-down conversions | 1-2 | 0-0 |
| Time of possession | 33:02 | 26:58 |

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING:**

*Seattle*—Alexander 20-95, Hasselbeck 3-35, Strong 2-7
*Pittsburgh*—Parker 10-93-TD, Bettis 14-43, Roethlisberger 7-25-TD, Ward 1-18, Haynes 1-2

**PASSING:**

*Seattle*—Hasselbeck 26-49-273-1 TD-1 INT
*Pittsburgh*—Roethlisberger 9-21-123-0 TD-2 INT, Randle El 1-1-43-1 TD-0 INT

**RECEIVING:**

*Seattle*—Jurevicius 5-93, Engram 6-70, Jackson 5-50, Stevens 3-25-TD, Strong 2-15, Hannam 2-12, Morris 1-6, Alexander 2-2
*Pittsburgh*—Ward 5-123-TD, Randle El 3-22, Wilson 1-20, Parker 1-1

**SACKS:**

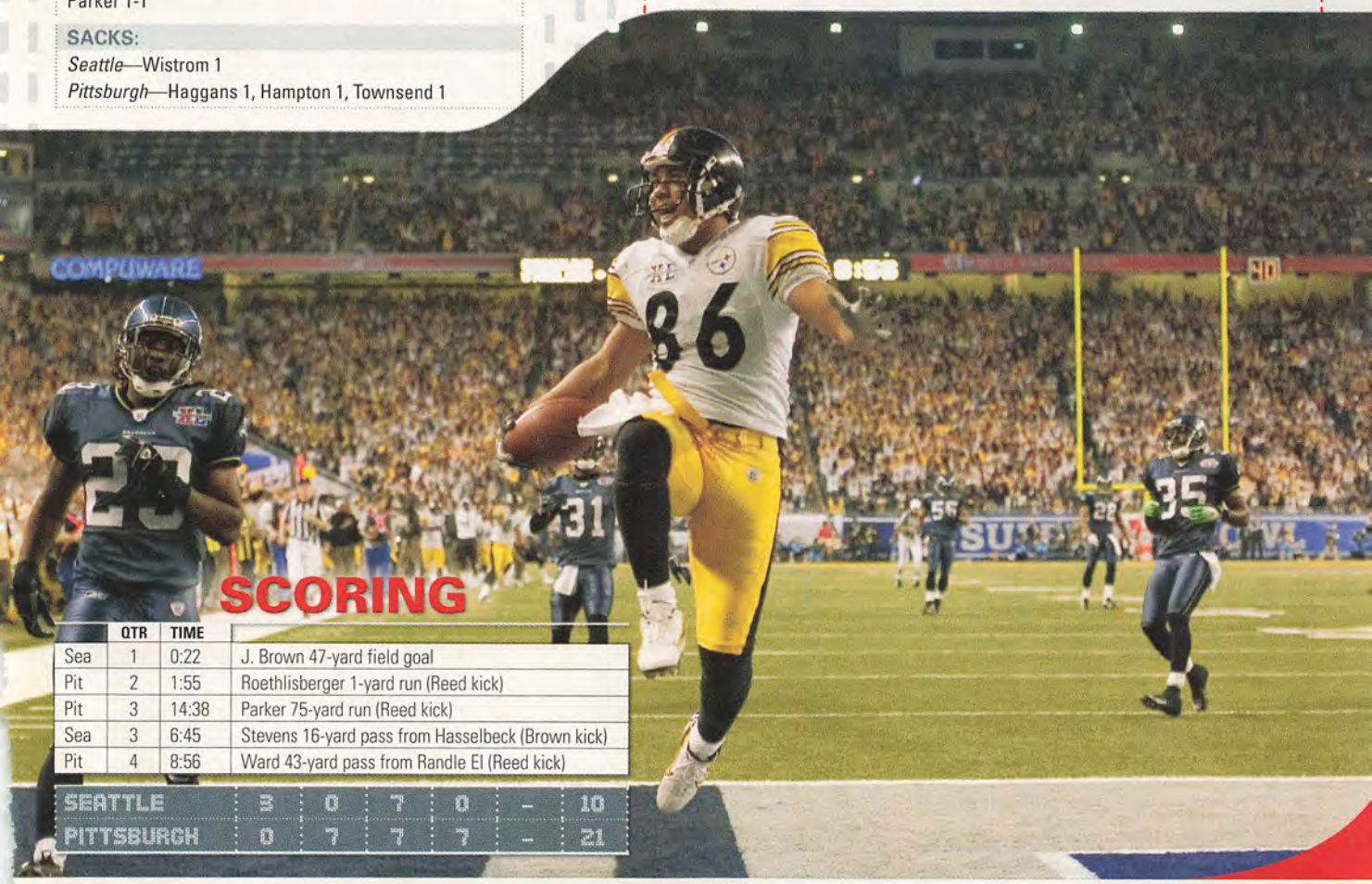
*Seattle*—Wistrom 1
*Pittsburgh*—Haggans 1, Hampton 1, Townsend 1

| SUPER BOWLS | |
|---|---|
| 1967 | Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10 |
| 1968 | Green Bay 33, Oakland 14 |
| 1969 | New York Jets 16, Baltimore 7 |
| 1970 | Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7 |
| 1971 | Baltimore 16, Dallas 13 |
| 1972 | Dallas 24, Miami 3 |
| 1973 | Miami 14, Washington 7 |
| 1974 | Miami 24, Minnesota 7 |
| 1975 | Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6 |
| 1976 | Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17 |
| 1977 | Oakland 32, Minnesota 14 |
| 1978 | Dallas 27, Denver 10 |
| 1979 | Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31 |
| 1980 | Pittsburgh 31, Los Angeles Rams 19 |
| 1981 | Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10 |
| 1982 | San Francisco 26, Cincinnati 21 |
| 1983 | Washington 27, Miami 17 |
| 1984 | Los Angeles Raiders 38, Washington 9 |
| 1985 | San Francisco 38, Miami 16 |
| 1986 | Chicago 46, New England 10 |

| SUPER BOWLS | |
|---|---|
| 1987 | New York Giants 39, Denver 20 |
| 1988 | Washington 42, Denver 10 |
| 1989 | San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 16 |
| 1990 | San Francisco 55, Denver 10 |
| 1991 | New York Giants 20, Buffalo 19 |
| 1992 | Washington 37, Buffalo 24 |
| 1993 | Dallas 52, Buffalo 17 |
| 1994 | Dallas 30, Buffalo 13 |
| 1995 | San Francisco 49, San Diego 26 |
| 1996 | Dallas 27, Pittsburgh 17 |
| 1997 | Green Bay 35, New England 21 |
| 1998 | Denver 31, Green Bay 24 |
| 1999 | Denver 34, Atlanta 19 |
| 2000 | St. Louis 23, Tennessee 16 |
| 2001 | Baltimore 34, New York Giants 7 |
| 2002 | New England 20, St. Louis 17 |
| 2003 | Tampa Bay 48, Oakland 21 |
| 2004 | New England 32, Carolina 29 |
| 2005 | New England 24, Philadelphia 21 |
| 2006 | Pittsburgh 21, Seattle 10 |

| SUPER BOWL MVP | |
|---|---|
| 1967 | Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers |
| 1968 | Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers |
| 1969 | Joe Namath, New York Jets |
| 1970 | Len Dawson, Kansas City Chiefs |
| 1971 | Chuck Howley, Dallas Cowboys |
| 1972 | Roger Staubach, Dallas Cowboys |
| 1973 | Jake Scott, Miami Dolphins |
| 1974 | Larry Csonka, Miami Dolphins |
| 1975 | Franco Harris, Pittsburgh Steelers |
| 1976 | Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh Steelers |
| 1977 | Fred Biletnikoff, Oakland Raiders |
| 1978 | Randy White & Harvey Martin, Dallas Cowboys |
| 1979 | Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh Steelers |
| 1980 | Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh Steelers |
| 1981 | Jim Plunkett, Oakland Raiders |
| 1982 | Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers |
| 1983 | John Riggins, Washington Redskins |
| 1984 | Marcus Allen, Los Angeles Raiders |
| 1985 | Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers |
| 1986 | Richard Dent, Chicago Bears |

| SUPER BOWL MVP | |
|---|---|
| 1987 | Phil Simms, New York Giants |
| 1988 | Doug Williams, Washington Redskins |
| 1989 | Jerry Rice, San Francisco 49ers |
| 1990 | Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers |
| 1991 | Ottis Anderson, New York Giants |
| 1992 | Mark Rypien, Washington Redskins |
| 1993 | Troy Aikman, Dallas Cowboys |
| 1994 | Emmitt Smith, Dallas Cowboys |
| 1995 | Steve Young, San Francisco 49ers |
| 1996 | Larry Brown, Dallas Cowboys |
| 1997 | Desmond Howard, Green Bay Packers |
| 1998 | Terrell Davis, Denver Broncos |
| 1999 | John Elway, Denver Broncos |
| 2000 | Kurt Warner, St. Louis Rams |
| 2001 | Ray Lewis, Baltimore Ravens |
| 2002 | Tom Brady, New England Patriots |
| 2003 | Dexter Jackson, Tampa Bay Buccaneers |
| 2004 | Tom Brady, New England Patriots |
| 2005 | Deion Branch, New England Patriots |
| 2006 | Hines Ward, Pittsburgh Steelers |




## SCORING

| | QTR | TIME | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sea | 1 | 0:22 | J. Brown 47-yard field goal |
| Pit | 2 | 1:55 | Roethlisberger 1-yard run (Reed kick) |
| Pit | 3 | 14:38 | Parker 75-yard run (Reed kick) |
| Sea | 3 | 6:45 | Stevens 16-yard pass from Hasselbeck (Brown kick) |
| Pit | 4 | 8:56 | Ward 43-yard pass from Randle El (Reed kick) |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SEATTLE | 3 | 0 | 7 | 0 | – | 10 |
| PITTSBURGH | 0 | 7 | 7 | 7 | – | 21 |

# 2006 NFL WEEKLY SCHEDULE

*All times Eastern / Preseason games times subject to change*

## TELEVISED PRESEASON GAMES

***Sunday, Aug. 6***
*Hall of Fame Game (Canton, Ohio)*
Oakland vs. Philadelphia 8:00, NBC
***Thursday, Aug. 10***
Indianapolis at St. Louis 8:00, FOX
***Friday, Aug. 11***
New England at Atlanta 8:00, CBS
***Sunday, Aug. 13***
Washington at Cincinnati 8:00, NBC
***Monday, Aug. 14***
Oakland at Minnesota 8:00, ESPN
***Thursday, Aug. 17***
Kansas City at N.Y. Giants 8:00, FOX
***Friday, Aug. 18***
San Diego at Chicago 8:00, CBS
***Saturday, Aug. 19***
Arizona at New England 8:00, NFL Network
***Sunday, Aug. 20***
Seattle at Indianapolis 8:00, NBC
***Monday, Aug. 21***
Dallas at New Orleans 8:00, ESPN
*Shreveport, La.*
***Thursday, Aug. 24***
Miami at Carolina 8:00, FOX
***Friday, Aug. 25***
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia 8:00, ESPN
***Saturday, Aug. 26***
Tampa Bay at Jacksonville 8:00, CBS
***Sunday, Aug. 27***
Houston at Denver 8:00, NFL Network
***Monday, Aug. 28***
Green Bay at Cincinnati 8:00, ESPN

## REGULAR SEASON GAMES

### WEEK 1

**THURSDAY, SEP. 7**
Miami at Pittsburgh 8:30
**SUNDAY, SEP. 10**
Atlanta at Carolina 1:00
Baltimore at Tampa Bay 1:00
Buffalo at New England 1:00
Cincinnati at Kansas City 1:00
Denver at St. Louis 1:00
New Orleans at Cleveland 1:00
N.Y. Jets at Tennessee 1:00
Philadelphia at Houston 1:00
Seattle at Detroit 1:00
Chicago at Green Bay 4:15
Dallas at Jacksonville 4:15
San Francisco at Arizona 4:15
Indianapolis at N.Y. Giants 8:15
**MONDAY, SEP. 11**
Minnesota at Washington 7:00
San Diego at Oakland 10:15

### WEEK 2

**SUNDAY, SEP. 17**
Buffalo at Miami 1:00
Carolina at Minnesota 1:00
Cleveland at Cincinnati 1:00
Detroit at Chicago 1:00
Houston at Indianapolis 1:00
New Orleans at Green Bay 1:00
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia 1:00
Oakland at Baltimore 1:00
Tampa Bay at Atlanta 1:00
Arizona at Seattle 4:05
St. Louis at San Francisco 4:05
Kansas City at Denver 4:15
New England at N.Y. Jets 4:15
Tennessee at San Diego 4:15
Washington at Dallas 8:15
**MONDAY, SEP. 18**
Pittsburgh at Jacksonville 8:30

### WEEK 3

*(Open date: Dallas, Kansas City, Oakland, San Diego)*

**SUNDAY, SEP. 24**
Carolina at Tampa Bay 1:00
Chicago at Minnesota 1:00
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh 1:00
Green Bay at Detroit 1:00
Jacksonville at Indianapolis 1:00
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo 1:00
Tennessee at Miami 1:00
Washington at Houston 1:00
Baltimore at Cleveland 4:05
N.Y. Giants at Seattle 4:15
Philadelphia at San Francisco 4:15
St. Louis at Arizona 4:15
Denver at New England 8:15
**MONDAY, SEP. 25**
Atlanta at New Orleans 8:30

### WEEK 4

*(Open date: Denver, N.Y. Giants, Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay)*

**SUNDAY, OCT. 1**
Arizona at Atlanta 1:00
Dallas at Tennessee 1:00
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets 1:00
Miami at Houston 1:00
Minnesota at Buffalo 1:00
New Orleans at Carolina 1:00
San Diego at Baltimore 1:00
San Francisco at Kansas City 1:00
Detroit at St. Louis 4:05
Cleveland at Oakland 4:15
Jacksonville at Washington 4:15
New England at Cincinnati 4:15
Seattle at Chicago 8:15
**MONDAY, OCT. 2**
Green Bay at Philadelphia 8:30

### WEEK 5

*(Open date: Atlanta, Cincinnati, Houston, Seattle)*

**SUNDAY, OCT. 8**
Buffalo at Chicago 1:00
Cleveland at Carolina 1:00
Detroit at Minnesota 1:00
Miami at New England 1:00
St. Louis at Green Bay 1:00
Tampa Bay at New Orleans 1:00
Tennessee at Indianapolis 1:00
Washington at N.Y. Giants 1:00
Kansas City at Arizona 4:05
N.Y. Jets at Jacksonville 4:05
Oakland at San Francisco 4:05
Dallas at Philadelphia 4:15
Pittsburgh at San Diego 8:15
**MONDAY, OCT. 9**
Baltimore at Denver 8:30

### WEEK 6

*(Open date: Cleveland, Green Bay, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Minnesota, New England)*

**SUNDAY, OCT. 15**
Buffalo at Detroit 1:00
Carolina at Baltimore 1:00
Cincinnati at Tampa Bay 1:00
Houston at Dallas 1:00
N.Y. Giants at Atlanta 1:00
Philadelphia at New Orleans 1:00
Seattle at St. Louis 1:00
Tennessee at Washington 1:00
Kansas City at Pittsburgh 4:15
Miami at N.Y. Jets 4:15
San Diego at San Francisco 4:15
Oakland at Denver 8:15
**MONDAY, OCT. 16**
Chicago at Arizona 8:30

### WEEK 7

*(Open date: Baltimore, Chicago, New Orleans, San Francisco, St. Louis, Tennessee)*

**SUNDAY, OCT. 22**
Carolina at Cincinnati 1:00
Detroit at N.Y. Jets 1:00
Green Bay at Miami 1:00
Jacksonville at Houston 1:00
New England at Buffalo 1:00
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay 1:00
Pittsburgh at Atlanta 1:00
San Diego at Kansas City 1:00
Denver at Cleveland 4:05
Arizona at Oakland 4:15
Minnesota at Seattle 4:15
Washington at Indianapolis 4:15
**MONDAY, OCT. 23**
N.Y. Giants at Dallas 8:30

### WEEK 8

*(Open date: Buffalo, Detroit, Miami, Washington)*

**SUNDAY, OCT. 29**
Arizona at Green Bay 1:00
Atlanta at Cincinnati 1:00
Baltimore at New Orleans 1:00
Houston at Tennessee 1:00
Jacksonville at Philadelphia 1:00
Seattle at Kansas City 1:00
San Francisco at Chicago 1:00
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Giants 1:00
St. Louis at San Diego 4:05
Indianapolis at Denver 4:15
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland 4:15
Pittsburgh at Oakland 4:15
Dallas at Carolina 8:15
**MONDAY, OCT. 30**
New England at Minnesota 8:30

### WEEK 9

*(Open date: Arizona, Carolina, N.Y. Jets, Philadelphia)*

**SUNDAY, NOV. 5**
Atlanta at Detroit 1:00
Cincinnati at Baltimore 1:00
Dallas at Washington 1:00
Green Bay at Buffalo 1:00
Houston at N.Y. Giants 1:00
Kansas City at St. Louis 1:00
Miami at Chicago 1:00
New Orleans at Tampa Bay 1:00
Tennessee at Jacksonville 1:00
Minnesota at San Francisco 4:05
Cleveland at San Diego 4:15
Denver at Pittsburgh 4:15
Indianapolis at New England 8:15
**MONDAY, NOV. 6**
Oakland at Seattle 8:30

### WEEK 10

**SUNDAY, NOV. 12**
Baltimore at Tennessee 1:00
Buffalo at Indianapolis 1:00
Chicago at N.Y. Giants 1:00
Cleveland at Atlanta 1:00
Green Bay at Minnesota 1:00
Houston at Jacksonville 1:00
Kansas City at Miami 1:00
New Orleans at Pittsburgh 1:00
N.Y. Jets at New England 1:00
San Diego at Cincinnati 1:00
San Francisco at Detroit 1:00
Washington at Philadelphia 1:00
Denver at Oakland 4:05
Dallas at Arizona 4:15
St. Louis at Seattle 4:15
** Note: One of the Sunday games will move to 8:15 p.m.*
**MONDAY, NOV. 13**
Tampa Bay at Carolina 8:30

### WEEK 11

**SUNDAY, NOV. 19**
Atlanta at Baltimore 1:00
Buffalo at Houston 1:00
Chicago at N.Y. Jets 1:00
Cincinnati at New Orleans 1:00
Indianapolis at Dallas 1:00
Minnesota at Miami 1:00
New England at Green Bay 1:00
Oakland at Kansas City 1:00
Pittsburgh at Cleveland 1:00
St. Louis at Carolina 1:00
Tennessee at Philadelphia 1:00
Washington at Tampa Bay 1:00
Detroit at Arizona 4:05
Seattle at San Francisco 4:05
San Diego at Denver 4:15
** Note: One of the Sunday games will move to 8:15 p.m.*
**MONDAY, NOV. 20**
N.Y. Giants at Jacksonville 8:30

### WEEK 12

**THURSDAY, NOV. 23**
Miami at Detroit 12:30
Tampa Bay at Dallas 4:15
Denver at Kansas City 8:00
**SUNDAY, NOV. 26**
Arizona at Minnesota 1:00
Carolina at Washington 1:00
Chicago at New England 1:00
Cincinnati at Cleveland 1:00
Houston at N.Y. Jets 1:00
Jacksonville at Buffalo 1:00
New Orleans at Atlanta 1:00
N.Y. Giants at Tennessee 1:00
Philadelphia at Indianapolis 1:00
Pittsburgh at Baltimore 1:00
San Francisco at St. Louis 1:00
Oakland at San Diego 4:05
** Note: One of the Sunday games will move to 8:15 p.m.*
**MONDAY, NOV. 27**
Green Bay at Seattle 8:30

### WEEK 13

**THURSDAY, NOV. 30**
Baltimore at Cincinnati 8:00
**SUNDAY, DEC. 3**
Arizona at St. Louis 1:00
Atlanta at Washington 1:00
Dallas at N.Y. Giants 1:00
Detroit at New England 1:00
Indianapolis at Tennessee 1:00
Jacksonville at Miami 1:00
Kansas City at Cleveland 1:00
Minnesota at Chicago 1:00
N.Y. Jets at Green Bay 1:00
San Diego at Buffalo 1:00
San Francisco at New Orleans 1:00
Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh 1:00
Houston at Oakland 4:05
Seattle at Denver 4:15
** Note: One of the Sunday games will move to 8:15 p.m.*
**MONDAY, DEC. 4**
Carolina at Philadelphia 8:30

### WEEK 14

**THURSDAY, DEC. 7**
Cleveland at Pittsburgh 8:00
**SUNDAY, DEC. 10**
Atlanta at Tampa Bay 1:00
Baltimore at Kansas City 1:00
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets 1:00
Indianapolis at Jacksonville 1:00
Minnesota at Detroit 1:00
New England at Miami 1:00
New Orleans at Dallas 1:00
N.Y. Giants at Carolina 1:00
Oakland at Cincinnati 1:00
Philadelphia at Washington 1:00
Tennessee at Houston 1:00
Green Bay at San Francisco 4:05
Seattle at Arizona 4:05
Denver at San Diego 4:15
** Note: One of the Sunday games will move to 8:15 p.m.*
**MONDAY, DEC. 11**
Chicago at St. Louis 8:30

### WEEK 15

**THURSDAY, DEC. 14**
San Francisco at Seattle 8:00
**SATURDAY, DEC. 16**
Dallas at Atlanta 8:00
**SUNDAY, DEC. 17**
Cleveland at Baltimore 1:00
Detroit at Green Bay 1:00
Houston at New England 1:00
Jacksonville at Tennessee 1:00
Miami at Buffalo 1:00
N.Y. Jets at Minnesota 1:00
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants 1:00
Pittsburgh at Carolina 1:00
Tampa Bay at Chicago 1:00
Washington at New Orleans 1:00
Denver at Arizona 4:05
Kansas City at San Diego 4:05
St. Louis at Oakland 4:15
** Note: One of the Sunday games will move to 8:15 p.m.*
**MONDAY, DEC. 18**
Cincinnati at Indianapolis 8:30

### WEEK 16

**THURSDAY, DEC. 21**
Minnesota at Green Bay 8:00
**SATURDAY, DEC. 23**
Kansas City at Oakland 8:00
**SUNDAY, DEC. 24**
Baltimore at Pittsburgh 1:00
Carolina at Atlanta 1:00
Chicago at Detroit 1:00
Indianapolis at Houston 1:00
New England at Jacksonville 1:00
New Orleans at N.Y. Giants 1:00
Tampa Bay at Cleveland 1:00
Tennessee at Buffalo 1:00
Washington at St. Louis 1:00
Arizona at San Francisco 4:05
Cincinnati at Denver 4:15
San Diego at Seattle 4:15
**MONDAY, DEC. 25**
Philadelphia at Dallas 5:00
N.Y. Jets at Miami 8:30

### WEEK 17

**SATURDAY, DEC. 30**
N.Y. Giants at Washington 8:00
**SUNDAY, DEC. 31**
Atlanta at Philadelphia 1:00
Buffalo at Baltimore 1:00
Carolina at New Orleans 1:00
Cleveland at Houston 1:00
Detroit at Dallas 1:00
Green Bay at Chicago 1:00
Jacksonville at Kansas City 1:00
Miami at Indianapolis 1:00
New England at Tennessee 1:00
Oakland at N.Y. Jets 1:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati 1:00
Seattle at Tampa Bay 1:00
St. Louis at Minnesota 1:00
Arizona at San Diego 4:15
San Francisco at Denver 4:15
** Note: One of the Sunday games will move to 8:15 p.m.*

## POSTSEASON GAMES

**WILD CARD GAMES**
Sat.-Sun., Jan. 6-7, 2007
**DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS**
Sat.-Sun., Jan. 13-14, 2007
**CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP**
Sunday, Jan. 21, 2007
**SUPER BOWL XLI**
Dolphin Stadium, Miami
Sunday, Feb. 4, 2007
**AFC-NFC PRO BOWL**
Aloha Stadium, Honolulu
Saturday, Feb. 10, 2007

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